

Moscow pulls out of Los Angeles summer Olympics

- The Russians withdrew from the Los Angeles Olympics but denied it was revenge for the American boycott in 1980
- Denouncing the pull-out as political, the US State Department said it had nothing to apologize for. The Soviet objections had all been met
- If Moscow does not change its mind by June 2, final date for entries, the first commercially sponsored Games could lose \$60m
- Absence of Soviet and Eastern block competitors will cripple many sports, especially athletics, cycling, gymnastics, swimming and wrestling

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Soviet Union last night officially withdrew from this summer's Los Angeles Olympic Games, a dramatic move widely seen as retaliation by the Kremlin for the partial boycott of the Moscow Games four years ago.

But Mr Leonid Khomenkov, chairman of the Soviet Athletics Association, later appeared to soften the Soviet Olympic Committee's categorical statement interpreting it as an "Open, straightforward and timely expression of serious concern" rather than an outright refusal to attend.

Should the whole Eastern block follow, it would virtually destroy competition in many events, particularly athletics and swimming.

The Soviet Olympic Committee said it was impossible to take part due to the "unbearable conditions" created by the United States. The American organizers were accused of failing to observe the Olympic Charter, and "chauvinist sentiments and anti-Soviet hysteria" were being whipped up.

The statement said the Reagan Administration was planning to use the Games for political purposes "from the very beginning of the preparations".

The news came after a day of mounting rumour. Letters in the Soviet press urged a boycott for political reasons, accusing the Reagan Administration of

being anti-Soviet and suffering from war psychosis. The letters - many from Soviet sportsmen - said Russia had the right to reconsider its participation.

In mid-April, Mr Marat Gramov, chairman of the Soviet Olympic Committee, told a specially convened press conference that it was a distortion to suggest that complaints about the organization of the Games were a prelude to a boycott. But he added: "We make a distinction between the word boycott and not attending."

The campaign for withdrawal began in earnest on April 9 when the Soviet Olympic Committee called for an emergency meeting of the IOC to discuss alleged violations of the charter.

Cash loss estimated at \$60m

By Pat Butcher

The Soviet withdrawal will hit the first commercially sponsored Olympics right where it hurts - in the pocket. The Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee's five-year plan to raise \$500m, simply to break even, recently looked as if it would realize a \$15m profit. But, according to one source in Los Angeles, the Soviet withdrawal will result in a \$60m deficit, mostly from television rights.

US condemns action as blatantly political

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration yesterday denounced the Soviet decision to pull out of the Los Angeles Olympic Games as "a blatant political action for which there is no real justification".

A State Department spokesman said the US had "gone to the last mile to counter Soviet objections, to ease Soviet concerns and to answer Soviet questions... we have nothing to apologize for."

Rate-cap vote

The main clause in the Rates Bill giving the Government power to cap local rates was carried in the Lords by 140 to 130, a government majority of 10. Some Conservative peers abstained.

Gunman kills 3 in Quebec Assembly

From Ray Guay, Quebec City

The gunman invaded the chamber after crossing the street from the historic Quebec Citadel, where he had fired his machine-gun at tourists and officers without hitting anyone.

Civil Service unions reject 3.7% offer

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Civil Service union leaders last night rejected an improved 3.7 per cent pay offer from the Government to 300,000 white collar staff as other groups of workers displayed a fresh determination to press for larger increases.

Air pocket saves capsized skipper from icy seas

The skipper of North Wind Three went yesterday describing how he and his son survived 20 minutes in an air pocket after their vessel capsized.

Three anglers on board are presumed dead.

Mr Palmer Cockerill, aged 50, said that he and his son, David, aged 18, were trapped as their vessel was swamped by four huge waves off Flamborough Head, Yorkshire.



Mr Livingstone welcoming the Queen at Woolwich Reach to open the Thames barrier.

Queen opens barrier to delight of Livingstone

By Alan Hamilton

"I have always thought," admitted Mr Ken Livingstone, the populist leader of the greater London council, "that the Queen is a very nice person indeed. Today confirmed that view."

To have the Thames Flood Barrier opened by the monarch, with the common ratepayers who helped fund it excluded from the ritual button-pressing was not always what the GLC's left-wing leadership had in mind for the inauguration of what may prove to be their most substantial, lasting, and last memorial.

But they were overruled, not least by the workforce, which toiled for 10 years to span Woolwich Reach with 20,000 tons of steel and half a million tons of concrete. They wished royal recognition from the capital's largest civil engineering project since Sir Joseph Bazalgette built the sewers.

The Queen made her stately procession, in the manner of her ancient forebears, downriver in the barge Royal Barge under London's bridges decorated with bunting - but only on the side she would see.

Dressed in lime green by Norman Hartnell, with a matching hat decorated with bobbing baubles that appeared Continued on back page, col 8

Gaddafi forces end coup attempt after gunmen attack home

By Staff Reporters

Forces loyal to Colonel Gaddafi the Libyan leader appeared to have crushed an attempted coup yesterday after gunmen armed with automatic weapons and rockets were repelled to have attacked his residence in Tripoli.

The Italian news agency, Ansa, said about 20 men launched the attack on the Bab al Azzaziya barracks in the southern part of the capital, although it was not known if Colonel Gaddafi was in his heavily-fortified home at the time.

The worst reported incident took place on March 25 when a big ammunition depot at Benghazi was blown up. Scores of people were killed and tanks, missiles and aircraft were destroyed.

Diplomatic sources have said that other military vehicles have been blown up in the area, which is traditionally loyal to the late King Idriss, deposed by Colonel Gaddafi in 1969.

Earlier yesterday the Libyans reported they had killed a British-backed terrorist and arrested two others who were trying to infiltrate from Tunisia. Libyan radio said the two arrested men had provided lists of terrorist cells in Libya, Britain, Sudan, the United States and other countries.

Early rise in bank base rates expected

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Clearing banks look set to raise base lending rates this week, increasing the cost of borrowing to industry and personal customers.

The City was bracing itself for the move, which could come as early as today. Government stocks fell and the FT Index closed 10.6 down at 904.8.

Three of the big banks are quoting base rates of 8.5 per cent while Barclays is out of line at 8.75 per cent. However, the City's money markets are now clearly signalling a rise to 9 per cent.

April money supply figures published yesterday by the Bank of England failed to dispel fears that rates would have to rise. Although money supply growth eased back after the big jump the previous month and sterling M3, still the most closely watched measure, rose by only about 0.5 per cent, the City took the figures with a pinch of salt.

Attention focused on the pace of bank lending, and developments in the United States also fuelled market concern. As American interest rates moved higher, several of the big banks increased prime lending rates by 0.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

The dollar rose strongly again on the foreign exchange markets, pushing the pound below \$1.38 for the first time ever before it closed at \$1.3835 and down 0.5 at 80.0.

Analysts believe the Bank of England will leave it to the banks to take the initiative.

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Pound plunges, page 17
Market reports, page 18

Music Director: CLAUDIO ABBADO

"THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" (consisting of recently resigned members of the Queen's Hall Orchestra and other eminent instrumentalists) beg to announce their **FIRST SYMPHONY CONCERT** on **THURSDAY JUNE 9TH, 1984**. At 2: the Committee have the honour to announce that **DR. HANS RICHTER** has most generously consented to conduct on this occasion.

Those were the words on the leaflet which announced the first symphony concert of the LSO. It offered a substantial programme consisting of two overtures, *Die Unterwiesinger* and *Die Zehnplöde*, Bach's *Suite in D*, a Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*. All this at the Queen's Hall at three o'clock in the afternoon since many of the Orchestra had to go on to play at Covent Garden in the evening!

Elgar himself conducted the sixth concert in the Orchestra's first season in a programme of his own works. So it is appropriate that our 80th Birthday Concert on June 9th (at 7.15 pm) starts with his overture, *Cockaigne*, and concludes with the *Enigma Variations*, both of which were played in that concert.

It is also appropriate that André Previn, who held the post of Principal Conductor of the Orchestra longer than any of his predecessors, should conduct for us enthusiastically continued one of the Orchestra's oldest traditions - the support of British music.

Full details of this and two other baroque concerts particularly worth noting are given in the adjoining column.

Saturday 9 June at 7.45
80th Birthday Concert
ELGAR
Overture "Cockaigne"
Cello Concerto in E minor Op 85
Enigma Variations
Douglas Cummings cello
André Previn conductor
Sponsored by Shell UK Ltd

Sunday 3 June at 7.30
Centenary Family Concert
in aid of the NSPCC
DUKAS
The Sorcerer's Apprentice
BIZET Suite "Carmen"
DELIBES
Mazurka from "Coppelia"
BRAHMS
Hungarian Dances Nos 5 & 6
BATT The Humming of the Snark
Premiere performance of a musical suite based on the Lewis Carroll nonsense poem. Guest appearances will include Wayne Eagling of the Royal Ballet and Linda Lewis
Mike Bart conductor

Wednesday 13 June at 7.45
Gala Concert in aid of the British Olympic Appeal, in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne
ELGAR Overture "Frisolant"
BRITTEN
The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra
HOLST Suite from "The Planets"
ARNOLD English Dances
Scottish Dances
Duncan Goodhew MBE narrator
Alun Francis conductor
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By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent



From Tim Jones, Dinorwig

From Ronald Faux

sh moves to end the

100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0%

four-in-a-bed sex session. But he returned to

By David Cross

By Peter Wilson-Smith

From Richard Ford, Belfast

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Kenneth Gosling

Det Superintendent David

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

More than half of Britain's schools will be fully or partially closed today as members of the National Union of Teachers stage a one-day protest strike over their 4.5 per cent offer.

By Michael Baily
Turkey Editor

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Black has of

Y. I. I.

The Earl of Caithness

Figure 1 is a line graph showing the percentage of total sample for each age group (0-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+) across different years (1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020). The y-axis ranges from 0 to 100. The x-axis shows years from 1980 to 2020. The 0-14 age group shows a steady decline from approximately 25% in 1980 to 10% in 2020. The 15-24 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 15% in 1980 to 20% in 2020. The 25-34 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 35-44 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 45-54 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 55-64 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 65-74 age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020. The 75+ age group shows a slight increase from approximately 10% in 1980 to 15% in 2020.

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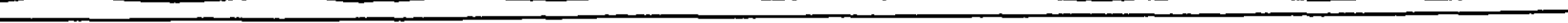




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Camera caught policeman kicking prison protester, jury is told

A policeman who was photographed kicking a demonstrator during a protest outside Liverpool's Walton prison, either disobeyed orders or momentarily lost his composure, a court was told yesterday.

Police Constable Karl Kneale, aged 23, pleaded not guilty at Preston Crown Court to assaulting Mr Michael O'Brien, causing him actual bodily harm on July 14 last year.

In a statement he made to an internal police inquiry Kneale said that when he saw the photograph in the next day's newspapers, he felt he had been "tried and convicted", the court was told.

Mr Michael Wolfe, for the

prosecution, said the kicking incident happened as about 200 protesters tried to prevent a coach carrying Dennis Kelly being moved out of the prison with other prisoners 30 days after he had been convicted of murder.

"By chance, or perhaps not by chance, there was a photographer at the scene", Mr Wolfe said. Showing the photograph to the jury, he said: "You will see that the policeman is clearly kicking. You can see for yourself the action of the right foot."

Mr Wolfe said that the coach carrying Kelly was at first prevented from leaving the prison by a crowd.

The coach reversed back into the prison, before another

successful attempt was made to get out.

Police officers had been told that if they were attacked they were to use only the hand-off technique as used in rugby football, Mr Wolfe said.

The police did an excellent job and there was only one arrest, he added. "But one police officer had either disobeyed orders or in the heat of the moment had lost his composure for a brief moment, but long enough to assault a demonstrator," Michael O'Brien said.

Police officers from greater Manchester started inquiries into the incident and PC Kneale, of Tyneville Road, Walton, Liverpool, made a statement.

In this PC Kneale said he had shouted at protesters to stay out of the way, but Mr O'Brien "took no notice of me and punched me with a clenched fist in the centre of my chest".

He pushed Mr O'Brien in the region of his chest and shoulders in an effort to protect himself.

Kneale denied striking Mr O'Brien in the face.

Giving evidence, Mr O'Brien, a cousin of Mr Kelly, asked permission to write down his home address rather than give it in open court because he said he had received threatening letters, some containing razor blades.

Mr O'Brien said he had been standing with a banner when someone from behind thumped him and he fell down.

Later that night he went to the Royal Liverpool Hospital, feeling ill. He denied that the only reason he had gone to the hospital was because he had seen a photograph of himself in an evening newspaper.

The trial continues today.



Mrs Norrie Queenie Moss (left) and Mrs Florence Lowdon, of Wimbledon, getting more than they bargained for at Sotheby's yesterday (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Borrie calls for new laws on trading practices

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A statutory duty to trade fairly should be created as a means of tackling persistent breaches of codes of practice by traders, Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, said last night.

Such a step is likely to be warmly welcomed by consumer bodies and retailer organizations, he said.

Sir Gordon added that under the proposal, persistent breaches of the new statutory duty and indirectly of codes of practice could lead to court

orders, or assurances as to future behaviour.

At present codes of practice were difficult to enforce. They were negotiated with trade associations and compliance depended on the discipline of the association. Second, they did not apply to traders outside associations.

The advantage of a general statutory duty, enforceable through the codes of practice prepared with the Office of Fair Trading, would be that it would apply to all traders.

Mystery replica set of the Crown Jewels for sale

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

It is not often that one gets a chance to try on the Crown Jewels. Mrs Norrie Queenie Moss and Mrs Florence Lowdon arrived at Sotheby's just as a replica set made of gilt metals and paste, which Sotheby's are to sell on May 24, came out of the safe. They were invited to try them on, and both said it made their day.

The reason for the replica set is a mystery. David Bennett, head of Sotheby's jewel department, says that they were probably made just before, or just after, the Second World

War. They have come for sale from an English country house but had been bought second hand.

Sotheby's is estimating their value at £3,000 to £4,000 but a jeweller who does repairs for the firm says that the hours of expert workmanship involved would cost £20,000 or so at today's prices.

The set includes copies of the Imperial State Crown, St Edward's Seal, five swords, the Ampulla, St George's Spurs, and the Coronation Ring.

Bachelors bow out in High Court

The name of The Bachelors, the singing group whose earliest popular hits go back more than 20 years, will not be used again. At the end of a battle in the High Court in London, the three former members of the group agreed that none of them would use the name in their future careers.

Originally, The Bachelors consisted of two brothers, Dec and Con Cluskey, and John Stokes. But the trio's harmony turned to discord and the brothers decided to form a new group.

Mr Justice Harman accepted undertakings not to use the name from the Cluskey brothers and John Stokes.

Princess backs marathon man

The Princess of Wales has agreed to sponsor an unemployed man from Rugby, who is running in the London Marathon on Sunday to raise money for children suffering from muscular dystrophy.

Mr Danny Maule, aged 37, would not say how much The Princess had agreed to pay. "The Palace asked me not to tell", he said. "It's not a king's ransom, but it is most acceptable."

Sunday trading firm fined £250

A sports shop in York that started its annual January sale on a Sunday to avoid crowding was fined £250 by magistrates for illegal trading. The sale at Newtitts attracted more than 10,000 people. However, the firm was told it could sell only cycling accessories and for sport that could be played on the premises.

Shell mystery

The origins of a 15-inch battleship shell found buried in a building site inland in Chichester, Sussex, yesterday are unknown. It was defused and did not contain explosives.

PC denies blinding prisoner

A police officer assaulted a man so badly that he was blinded for life, a jury was told yesterday.

Police constable Brian Renton, aged 28, hit Mr Barry Cartliff, aged 36, a "perfectly respectable businessman", with such savagery that surgeons had to remove his left eye, Mr Alan Jones, for the prosecution, said.

As Mr Cartliff had already lost nearly all his sight in the other eye because of an accident at work, he was now totally blind, Mr Jones said.

He told Southwark Crown Court, south London, that Mr Cartliff and a group of his friends were arrested in an Indian restaurant in Holloway Road, north London, where PC Renton and other officers were dining at another table.

There was an argument between the parties and one of Mr Cartliff's friends made a

hurtful and insensitive remark about PC Renton's "squinny". Mr Cartliff was anxious to calm things down.

Mr Jones said, "But PC Renton called for further assistance and more officers arrived."

On the way to Islington police station, north London, an officer in the police van mimicked Harry Corbett with a "Sootie" and "Sweep" glove puppet on his hand and said to Cartliff, who has been naughty boy, that something nasty is going to happen back at the police station", Mr Jones alleged.

Mr Jones said that inside the police station Mr Cartliff, of Burton Street, Bloomsbury, who has now given up his garage business because he cannot work, was separated from three friends arrested with him for allegedly being drunk

and disorderly and ordered into the change room.

"I was searched, told to remove his glasses, face the wall and turn back again. Then he received a ferocious punch to the left eye and probably another one. This punch was a deliberate and spiteful act of retribution."

PC Renton, of Grosvenor Avenue Highbury, north London, who was suspended from duty pending his trial, denies causing grievous bodily harm in April last year. The trial continues today.

PC Michael Kelly held up his shattered helmet yesterday and described at the Central Criminal Court how it saved him when a suspect attacked him with a Gurkha kukri knife.

Delroy Springer, aged 22, of Mount Pleasant Lane, Clapton, east London, denies attempted murder. The trial continues

Matron 'made thousands from secret residents'

A matron at two old people's homes took in extra residents without the owner's knowledge and pocketed the income, Bedford Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Stephen Coward, QC, for the prosecution, claimed that in nine months Mrs Sheila Raeside, aged 53, and Mr Sidney Dilley, another employee, netted £15,000.

Neither the local authority, which licensed Langlade Old People's Residential Home and Henrietta House, both in Bedford, nor Langlade Homes, the owners, knew about them.

Mrs Raeside and Mr Dilley, both of Lynton Avenue, St Albans, denied conspiring to defraud their employers and conspiring to steal from them.

The hearing continues today.

Nursing home retainers to GPs may be illegal

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

General practitioners who charged nursing homes a retainer for looking after their patients may be acting illegally, Under National Health Service terms and conditions family doctors cannot generally charge their health service patients private fees - they either have to treat them privately or as health service patients.

But some family doctors are said to be receiving from several hundred pounds to £6,000 a year in one case in retainers from nursing homes to care for patients who may be on their NHS list.

The magazine *Current Practice*, says GPs sometimes charge for advice on hygiene, drug storage, admissions and administration to avoid the

allegations that they are being paid twice.

But the British Medical Association's family doctors' committee has told GPs to seek legal advice.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the association's general medical services committee said: "There seems to be a consensus that while general medical care of patients on GPs' list is covered by the NHS, other associated duties are not."

Mr Stanley Davis, secretary of the Registered Nursing Homes Association, to which 500 nursing homes and clinics belong, said he raised the issue with the BMA because "there seemed to be an increasing practice for GPs to ask for retainers and there was no guidance."

Iranian 'modesty' rule ignored by bank staff

Fifty women employed by Iran's largest bank in London, the City branch of Bank Mellat Iran, reported for work yesterday wearing smart suits, skirts and blouses, immaculate make-up and stylish hair-dos.

No one was sent home for defying dress rules the management has threatened to introduce.

The women say they had been told to cover their heads and arms, keep make-up to a minimum, and wear dark-coloured clothes. But a formal memorandum was not delivered yesterday.

But two employees, one British and one Iranian, said

they would abide by the ruling if it was formally issued.

The British woman, who like most employees refused to give her name, said: "I am a devout Muslim and I am not going to kiss goodbye to a job and a five per cent mortgage for the sake of not wearing a headscarf."

Mr Michael Witherden, the bank's personnel officer, said: "No-one has issued any specific instruction about dress beyond those that are conventional in banking organizations, and bearing in mind that we do have to be conscious of a particularly conservative attitude on the part of some of our customers."

Test case on kidnap by parents

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A controversial ruling that parents cannot be convicted of kidnapping their own children was challenged by the Crown before the House of Lords yesterday.

The test case is being fought over a decision last November in which the court of Appeal quashed convictions of kidnapping and contempt of court in the case of a New Zealand man who had twice snatched his daughter from his former wife.

It is believed to be the first time in legal history that a father had been convicted of kidnapping his own child. The father, Mr Ian Daily, had faced a two-year suspended jail sentence.

The Court of Appeal held that there was no such offence as kidnapping a child by the parent if the child was under 13.

Giving judgment, Lord Justice Watkins said that the case was a serious example of the deliberate flouting of High Court orders by a father, but that he should never have been convicted of the criminal offence of kidnapping. The jurisdiction of judges to punish for disobedience of court orders on children was extensive and powerful, he said.

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No cover-up: Staff arriving at Bank Mellat Iran yesterday.

Teachers' strike will close many schools

More than half of Britain's schools will be fully or partially closed today as members of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) go on strike.

The NUT's 100,000 members are demanding a 10 per cent offer from the Government.

The strike will affect 100,000 children and 10,000 teachers.

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Details of joint satellite TV project

BROADCASTING

The main features of a joint direct broadcasting by satellite project between the BBC and the independent sector were outlined by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, in the Commons when he moved the second reading of the Cable and Broadcasting Bill which has passed the House of Lords.

While the Government remained committed to a framework of permitting competing BBC and independent sector direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) services for the longer term, he said the consortium approach offered the most realistic chance of getting the British DBS services into action within the next three or four years.

He envisaged that the joint project should have a maximum life of 10 years from the date of launch and provisions to be made to the Bill would provide the project with a right to use a substantial investment.

For the Opposition, Mr Gerald Kaufman forecast that in place of the properly structured broadcasting system which had existed for 60 years, there would be a Tower of Babel with people planning their hands in to make profits at the expense of consumers.

Unless the Government brought in safeguards and made changes during the committee stage, the Labour Party would oppose the Bill with all the vigour at its disposal.

Mr Brittan said that in fulfilment of undertakings given in the Lords, the Government would bring forward amendments to give the cable authority established under the Bill a duty to guard against excessive concentrations of ownership in separate cable companies.

The Bill contained the "trust carry" rule under which the existing BBC and IBA services would have to be transmitted on the licensed cable service. The Bill also safeguarded viewers of existing services from the "creaming off" of popular events by cable.

The Government would introduce a provision designed to reduce the risk of "creaming off" by foreign broadcasting services aimed at this country.

We shall also, separately, be introducing new provisions to the said to guard against the dishonest reception of cable and satellite services.

The Government had been persuaded by arguments in the Lords that the duty on the cable authority to consider and advise on complaints of unjust or unfair treatment or unwarranted infringement of privacy in cable programmes, would be more appropriate to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, with its existing expertise. New provisions would be tabled to achieve this change.

The spectrum available for VHF radio broadcasting would extend during the next decade or so and was likely to offer the facility for two new national networks in 1990. One of these would go to the BBC so that Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4 would each have a VHF network of their own. The other would go to the IBA to provide for the first time a service independent of national radio.

Creation of a national network of transmitters given the substantial task which, if it was to be carried out economically and still be ready for 1990, should begin in just over a year's time. He would bring forward during the committee stage, new enabling powers to allow the IBA to begin the programme of transmitter construction before a contractor was appointed.

The United Kingdom, like each other European country, had been allocated by international agreement five direct broadcasting by satellite channels.

The Government's decision, announced in March, 1982 by Lord

Whitaker, was that the BBC would be authorized to go ahead with plans for a two-channel service, using a satellite system provided by the Unisat Consortium Lord Whitaker looked forward to the participation of the independent sector in DBS once a legislative and regulatory framework had been created and that was what Part II of the Bill sought to provide.

The Government remained committed to the framework of permitting competing BBC and independent sector DBS services for the longer term, but it had accepted the case that there had been too much of a break even until it could attract some two million subscribers and that was going to take some years.

There were doubts whether there was room from the outset for two services competing for an audience. These uncertainties led the BBC to explore the opportunities for partnership with others, latterly and particularly with the IBA and ITCA, the association of ITV companies.

Having reviewed the case put forward by the government, he had concluded that the best hope of securing a good quality British DBS service in the late 1980s lay in a joint project which would bring together the talents and experience of those of the existing broadcasters who wished to participate, together with a significant proportion of outsiders.

What was proposed was that the joint DBS project would be provided by a joint company or consortium whose participation would be divided between the BBC and the independent sector.

The independent sector will be in two parts. One part which I would expect to be at least a quarter of the total project, would consist of the ITV companies with a stake in it. I stress that there is to be no pressure or coercion. The companies must decide for themselves because it is their shareholders' money which will be at risk.

The other part of the independent sector would consist of other companies or organizations that express a wish to take part on the terms stated and are judged suitable to do so. They might make up 25 per cent of the total, but the proportions need to be kept flexible until we see the strength of those who wish to participate.

It is in my view essential that an opportunity for participation in this important new broadcast development should be given to those who do not currently hold ITV franchises.

I shall need to be satisfied at the end of the process of selection and negotiation that a suitable consortium has been put together. I shall therefore be inviting the House to confer on me as Home Secretary a power under the Bill to seal the consortium by formally deciding the terms of the consortium.

This does not mean that I see myself, or my department, playing a substantial role in the selection of the new element in the consortium which is neither BBC nor franchise-holder. Some of the work, however, will be needed to invite would-be participants to come forward, to sift them and judge the strength of their claim to participate.

Here I propose to seek the help and advice of the IBA, whose experience and background make it an obviously body for the purpose. The Authority will shortly be inviting interested organizations to get in touch with it for this purpose.

Some independent production companies, whose growth has been much stimulated by the outlet for their product provided in the

statutory framework for Channel Four, have suggested a clear place in programme provision for the joint project. That is a suggestion with which I have a great deal of sympathy. I do not at this stage have a specific proposal, but I shall be considering how best effect might be given to it, and I invite others who are, or will be, concerned with the joint project to do likewise.

Like the BBC project, from which, in a sense, it springs, the joint project would use the Unisat satellite system. Some fresh negotiation between the consortium when formed and Unisat will be necessary for various reasons. For example, it is envisaged that the joint project will provide three channels, one film channel and two of mixed programming. This means a change from the proposition being negotiated between the BBC and Unisat.

I envisage that the joint project should have a maximum life of 10 years from the date of launch; provisions to be added to the Bill will so provide. Ten years is chosen so as to provide an adequate period over which the project can build up an audience, recoup its initial outlay and move towards profit - I have particularly in mind here the needs of the independent element.

Whether the project will in fact last 10 years must depend upon the arrangements regarding satellite provision which the consortium will make with Unisat.

No public money was being invested in or guaranteed for the project, nor would be in the future. The Government was in no sense underwriting any part of the costs.

The BBC's share of the cost would come from borrowing on the money market. If the worst came to the worst and the project collapsed it might be necessary for the Corporation to draw upon licence fee revenue, with his consent, to settle its debts. The BBC understood that such a use of licence fee funds would not be recouped through a subsequently enhanced fee.

Expenditure of the ITV companies participating in the consortium would not be an offset against the less payable upon the profits of their terrestrial broadcasting operation.

A joint body would have to be set up to bear responsibility for the transmission of those programmes and would be added to the BBC members would be drawn equally from the BBC's Board of Governors

hour or five years has resulted in a considerable reduction in the smoking of cigarettes and in cigarette smoke.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab): Is there not something unacceptable and intolerable in the fact that night after night on television screens you see sporting and other events sponsored by cigarette companies?

Mr Patten: I do not wish to get drawn too deeply into this, it is for the Minister for Sport, (Labour) to answer. But I will hazard the view that there is no clear and unequivocal evidence to show whether or not advertising increases smoking by children or by anybody else.

Mr William Clark (Croydon, South): The Exchequer benefits to some £4,500m from tax on cigarettes, if every body stopped, how would the Chancellor raise the money?

Mr Patten: I do not know how the Chancellor of the exchequer would make the revenue, it is not a matter for me.

As it is a national health service as opposed to a national sickness service, it is our duty to draw the attention of those people who smoke to the considerable health risks they face.

Mr Laurence Patten (Brent, South, Lab): said there were suggestions that children in Glasgow were

before a decision of that kind is taken but immigration rules are made to be kept. There are ample provisions for appeal but I would not criticize the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) rejected a request for an emergency debate on the expulsion of Mr Begum and her daughter.

Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington, North, Lab), making his submission, said that Mrs Begum had a perfect right to be in the United Kingdom as the wife of a British citizen.

By bundling mother and child out of the country, the Home Office had not only committed a crime against human values but prevented MPs raising it while they were still in the country.

The Speaker replied that he could not possibly be responsible for Government administrative decisions.

Mr Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that if the House had been sitting when they were told of the decision to deport Alia Begum, the MPs interested would have come to the House to raise the matter before she had been deported, but they could not do that.

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"The listening party is on the way", he says with some fervour and excitement.

Concluded

and the members of the IBA, its activities would be a logical extension of those of the BBC and IBA.

The project involves high risk (the said) and substantial investment. Even on favourable assumptions, the project will be making losses year on year, in the fourth and fifth year of its operation, and will do little more than break even after seven years.

The Government wanted to postpone bringing into force Part II of the Bill until three years after the launch of the joint project's services, when IBA would invite applications and, if suitable, issue contracts. During the second part of the life of the joint project there could be competition from other DBS services in addition to competition from other cable-borne services.

The ITV companies had stressed they faced problems because the present franchises ended in 1989. I propose the added to add to the Bill provision having the effect that for 1989, but on that occasion only, the IBA will not be under an obligation to readvertise ITV contracts, but will retain a complete discretion as to whether to do so or not.

This will preserve the general franchising structure to which we remain committed and leave the IBA with full powers to do what is necessary to ensure a satisfactory standard of performance.

I stress that it does not give any ITV company any guarantee whatsoever that its franchise will be renewed in 1989. It leaves the IBA free to renew without readvertisement if it considers that the company's level of performance is satisfactory.

The consortium approach offered the realistic chance of getting the British DBS service into action within the next three or four years. There would be the opportunity of a stake in the first DBS service both the BBC and for those who had tried to run independent DBS franchise.

It has a limited life (the added) and the competitive regime, which remains our ideal, will not be long before the interests of independent participants will begin very short.

Work was already in hand for drafting the additions to the Bill. These provisions would not guarantee that a joint project came into being, but they would create the framework and opportunity.

Mr Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said there was already dispute about the

persuaded to take up smoking because of smokeless zones.

Mr Patten replied that there was no incontrovertible evidence to prove this.

How to complain about family practitioners

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, told the Commons at question time that he proposes to issue a leaflet describing in plain English how to complain about family practitioner services. It was also intended the added to hold family practitioner committees to account for their performance.

When Mr David Knox (Staffordshire Moorlands, C) asked whether the minister was satisfied with their operation, Mr Clarke replied I am not satisfied with the current performance of all of them to the level that the best already achieve.

We intend, through provisions in the Health and Social Security Bill, to improve their effectiveness and enable them to make a greater contribution to the planning and development of the family practitioner services.

Mr Patten: I am anxious to see a prosperous coal industry with a good future in the home market and overseas. Consultation procedures do exist and they should be taken up.

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Two policemen and a detective constable who were shot at by a fleeing gunman were given bravery awards at Bow Street Magistrates Court yesterday.

Woman police constable Janet Cranmer, aged 30, and WPC Julie Renton, aged 26, were both viciously attacked as they tackled two thieves who were escaping with £25,000 after robbing the National Westminster Bank in Shoreditch, east London, last February.

WPC Cranmer was punched in the mouth by one raider after his accomplice had crashed their getaway car.

Meanwhile, Det Constable Leslie Green, aged 25, who is now a sergeant, grappled with the gunman and was shot at from six yards.

The three were commended yesterday by Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. They each received £100 from the Bow Street Award Fund.

Thatcher stays out of coal dispute

PM'S QUESTIONS

Sales not strikes saved jobs, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared in the Commons when questioned about the coal dispute. She added that exports were there if people would work in order to fulfil them. There were sufficient coal stocks at power stations for many months yet.

When urged to get people out of the table, Mrs Thatcher replied that consultations procedures existed and should be used.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C) called on her to congratulate the National Coal Board on winning a contract to sell coal to the United States worth 1,000 jobs, and confirmed that the jobs depended upon the coal being delivered.

Mrs Thatcher: The NCB is to be congratulated on securing a contract which will amount to something like 400,000 tonnes of coal coming from a Durham mine. That contract will depend upon the first delivery of the coal from the coal being made by the end of May.

It is worth reminding people is that the coal industry is not a charity. It is a business. It is a business which is in a position to generate electricity by use of oil, or spend by local authorities for the policing of the dispute, or the money the present dispute is costing the NCB that is far in excess of keeping pits open they want to close, is money well spent?

Mrs Thatcher: It is right to spend money to enable people who wish to work in the coal industry to get their place in the industry to get to work. It will continue to happen. There are jobs waiting for those in coal if they wish to go to work and dig coal to secure contracts.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh, East, Lab): Against the background of mass unemployment, the cost of closing pits is greater than the cost of keeping them open.

Will Mrs Thatcher have regard to the social consequences of destroying thousands of jobs in areas where the majority of school leavers have no hope of permanent work?

In Scotland and elsewhere miners who have been treated as industrial spies and not as men, to get themselves thrown on the scrap heap of mass unemployment.

Mrs Thatcher: The taxpayer already pays something like £1,300m in subsidy to the NCB. That means many taxpayers are finding nearly a pound a week in order to subsidise coal.

Some other taxpayers have had to learn that they only continue to have jobs providing they supply goods that please the customers.

The House has seen a good future if it is able to produce high volume low cost coal which can be sold not only in Britain but in export markets also. Export orders are there if people are prepared to work in order to fulfil them.

Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst, C): Has Mrs Thatcher seen the claim made by Mr Arthur Scargill that coal stocks at power stations will last for only eight weeks? He made almost the same claim on February 6, some three months ago. Will she reassess the House as to the position on coal stocks?

Mrs Thatcher: There are sufficient coal stocks at the power stations for many months yet.

Mr Don Concanon (Mansfield, Lab): I trust Mrs Thatcher is not taking any joy out of what she sees in my constituency of Mansfield. My miners in Nottinghamshire are just as much against her policies and those of Mr Ian MacGregor as any other miners. What are they on is an internal union affair.

Would Mrs Thatcher use her great office not to get some of these people round the table to talks, as they soon must.

Mrs Thatcher: I am anxious to see a prosperous coal industry with a good future in the home market and overseas. Consultation procedures do exist and they should be taken up.

Mr Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that if the House had been sitting when they were told of the decision to deport Alia Begum, the MPs interested would have come to the House to raise the matter before she had been deported, but they could not do that.

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Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

The Rev Ian Paisley's latest outburst is a warning to Mr Prior of the kind of difficulty he faces if he tries any initiative in response to the New Ireland Forum. No doubt Mr Paisley laid it on as heavily as he could in the attempt to deter Mr Prior. But that does not mean that his words can be dismissed as so much empty rhetoric.

Not only does Mr Paisley have a substantial following in Northern Ireland, but the more extreme he is the more he is likely to force the Official Unionists to take a hard line, especially with the European election campaign about to begin.

It is one more reason why it must be in Mr Prior's interest to proceed carefully, in purely personal terms it is hard to see what he should do anything much at all. He has now been Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for two-and-a-half years. Three years in that job is enough for anyone, and it would be natural for Mr Prior to be expecting a transfer to another office in a Cabinet shuffle this autumn.

If he tries another initiative and fails, that might reduce his standing in the ministerial market. Not many Conservative MPs are expecting him to have another attempt to find a political solution, and the mere attempt would probably antagonize a number on the right of the party who do not regard Mr Prior as their favourite minister anyway.

Success may trap Prior

If, on the other hand, he seemed to be making some progress with his initiative it might be difficult to move him in the autumn. Even though he would be implementing government policy, which would have to have the full endorsement of Mr Margaret Thatcher, such negotiations always depend a good deal on the personal confidence built up by the minister conducting them. So Mr Prior might find himself trapped by even a faint prospect of success.

A sense of personal calculation would therefore suggest that he should simply talk to all the political parties in Northern Ireland to see if some common ground has emerged in the light of the forum report. Not to do as much as that would expose him to the charge of missing a possible opportunity, but to do more would be a gamble.

Yet reports over the past few days state that Mr Prior is determined to do more. Some of those reports may perhaps imply that his intentions are harder than they really are. The most likely course for him to follow, fairly tentative round discussions with Northern Ireland parties and also with the Government of the Irish Republic.

Cautious approach would be wisest

Only if those talks were quite promising would he be expected to seek the approval of the Cabinet for putting forward specific proposals in a second round of conversations, and only if those seemed hopeful would he be likely to make his suggestions public. Almost certainly, nothing beyond the first exploratory talks would take place without Mrs Thatcher's active and positive approval, because she would need to throw her weight behind any initiative for it to stand any chance of success.

A step-by-step approach would certainly be wiser than bold, dramatic move. But even in the first round of talks some ideas will probably be floated cautiously from the British side, and it is hard to keep anything confidential and tentative in Northern Ireland politics.

This would not matter if some common ground was emerging. But it is not easy to see what it could be. A joint Anglo-Irish authority for security might have its appeal for some Unionists, but the republic and the Social Democratic and Labour Party would want more than security to be indicative, which would probably alarm most Unionists. If some form of devolved government based on power-sharing could not be agreed through the assembly, it really could be achieved now. It is brave of Mr Prior to try, but he will need to be rigorous in judging the soundness of his first exploratory talks. Another substantial initiative that failed would be worse than doing nothing.

Tory fails in attempt to reform electoral law

CONSTITUTION

The presence of an overwhelming majority in Parliament was something to rejoice in when the majority happened to be on one's own side, but it was important to recognize that humility was a rare but vital political virtue, and particularly vital when a party had a vast majority in the Commons.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said in the Commons.

He was refused leave to introduce a motion of the Constitution, but its purpose was electoral reform: reform of the House of Lords; and to ensure that no constitutional

measure could be enacted without a two-thirds majority of MPs.

He said the Bill would preserve the single member constituency, while seeking to remedy the unfairness of parties with a similar proportion of the popular vote achieving grossly disproportionate representation.

Electoral reform and proportional representation were not necessarily the same thing, and it was essential to advocate the latter in order to achieve the former.

The Bill would provide for two rounds of elections in the present single member constituencies. Where no candidate got half the number of votes cast or one third of the total electorate, there would be a second round.

shift to what he calls "a campaigning stance". The party will not only respond to single-issue campaigns, but it will also use the computers to find out what the party membership is saying, a responsive attitude, which Mr Gummer says is something of a novelty for his party.

Once the European election campaign is completed next month, the new stance would be put into full operation.

"We have never been good, in the past, in listening effectively to our large membership. We are determined to do that now," Mr Gummer says.

"If you have a lot of seats in Parliament, if you have a wider voting base than you have had before, and if you have a big membership which you are more effectively able to service by computer, then you can be a much more effective listening party."

It is particularly valuable to get reactions faster and more

directly than we have in the past.

As for finance, local associations are to pay their own way with their own computer systems. Mr Gummer says that he is going through a cost-cutting exercise nationally, "lightening on housekeeping". But he is unwilling to break one Conservative tradition - refusing to divulge his budget.

The proportions of income received from constituencies, the "doorstep" donations, and industry are said to vary between 3 to 1 and 7 to 3, but Mr Gummer is not prepared to talk cash.

Neither is he willing to go into any detail on "the major changes in how we fight elections".

However, on one delicate issue at least he is able to say something - that there is no problem on candidates and their political antecedents.

The Young Conservative report, he says, found there was no evidence of any significant

infiltration of the party. "All I am determined to see is that it does not ever happen", he says.

A number of changes had therefore been introduced.

Parliamentary candidates had previously been asked if there had been anything in their past which might be "detrimental" to the party. They were now being asked the direct question: "Have you ever been a member of any other party?"

Personal referees were required to have known potential candidates for longer periods of time, gaps in personal histories were being checked and, for council candidates, local associations were being reminded that those standing for the Conservative Party "should not have 'drawbacks'".

The Young Conservative report has made some sort of impression.

Mr Gummer, however, also wanted to use the Young Conservatives, the Conservative Trade Unionists and other rank-and-file groups to bolster communication and campaigning inside and outside the party.

"The listening party is on the way", he says with some fervour and excitement.

Concluded

Tories turn on to computer campaigns

If the Social Democrats are obsessed with membership, the Liberals with decentralization and Labour with campaigns, the present Conservative craze is computerization.

Mr John Gummer, the Conservative Party Chairman, says that computer operations will help the party to broaden and expand its membership, give members a feedback voice in policy and party management, and enable constituency campaigns to be launched on the issues which motivate the voters.

Mr Gummer says: "We would like to see computers as part of the basic equipment for any constituency. It is not just membership; they enable us to canvass more effectively and get our message over more effectively."

About 100 constituency associations have so far invested more than £4,500, plus value-added tax, in one of two computer packages on offer, and although the party reckons on a national membership of about one and a half million, Mr Gummer is keen that numbers should be increased to reflect the Conservatives' increased majority last June.

He also links that aim with a

The Alliance and Labour have reacted differently to the scale of their 1983 reverses. ANTHONY BEVINS, Political Correspondent, today describes the Conservative organization's reaction to last year's landslide victory.

shift to what he calls "a campaigning stance". The party will not only respond to single-issue campaigns, but it will also use the computers to find out what the party membership is saying, a responsive attitude, which Mr Gummer says is something of a novelty for his party.

Once the European election campaign is completed next month, the new stance would be put into full operation.

"We have never been good, in the past, in listening effectively to our large membership. We are determined to do that now," Mr Gummer says.

Consumer report urges action to help council tenants move

By David Nicholson-Lord

Restrictions on council tenants' ability to move house is a serious barrier to economic progress, a report published today suggests. Almost 10 per cent of tenants, 676,000 people nationally, are frustrated each year in their attempt to move to other council homes.

The frustrations are far greater for council tenants than for owner-occupiers, only 4 per cent of whom fail in their attempt to move, the report from the National Consumer Council says. It blames a shrinking council housing stock, caused partly by sales of houses, as well as the failure of recently introduced national mobility schemes.

The report, *Moving home: Why is it difficult for council tenants?*, recommends new legislation to halt the practice, disclosed in a recent survey, more than half the local authorities sampled insist that tenants live in their houses for a minimum period - most frequently a year - before they can register for a transfer.

Membership of the National

Mobility Scheme, begun in 1981 to help people move to jobs, should be made obligatory for local authorities, it says.

The report also criticizes the Tenants' Exchange Scheme, a self-help "clearing house" run by the Department of the Environment. It says it lacks flexibility, presents information poorly, fails to monitor the scheme's effectiveness, and does not consult or represent tenants.

Commenting on the plight of council tenants, the report says: "Not only do these people find themselves at a personal disadvantage compared with people in other forms of housing tenure, but restrictions on the ability to move home for a third of the population may be a serious barrier to the ability of the economy generally to adapt to changing circumstances."

"This, of course, contrasts sharply with the private housing market where there is no question of meeting the kind of conditions before being allowed to move house."

'Superbug' did not kill lab worker

A coroner recorded a verdict yesterday of death by natural causes on a woman who worked at the National Institute for Medical Research, at Mill Hill, north London, on January 18.

Dr David Paul, the Hornsey coroner, said that Elizabeth Margaret Sringfoll, 23, of West Way, Edgware, north London, died from mumps less than 24 hours after being taken ill on January 17.

He criticized the reports made of her death, describing them as "ill advised, premature and sensational". He added: "There was no super bug that had suddenly launched itself at the young woman."

Dr Marguerite Pereira, director of the virus laboratory Collindale Research Centre, said: "Every year there are three, four or five deaths from mumps virus infection. I was aware of her work and of the organisms with which she was likely to have contact and I was able to exclude them all. She could not have caught this as a direct result of her work."

Violet Wood tree felling apology

British Waterways made a mistake in sending chainsaw gangs to fell trees on a canal side in Solihull, West Midlands, it said yesterday.

The wood is all that remains of a favourite country walk of Edith Holden, chronicled in the *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* in 1906. It is known locally as Violet Wood, her name for it.

The board's chairman, Sir Frank Price, has apologized to residents near by and to Solihull's Conservative MP, Mr John Taylor, saying that officials acting insensitively had made a mistake.

Some felling will still be carried out to prevent tree roots damaging the canal bank, but a landscape expert is to repair damage.

The board's action follows a report in *The Times* on February 17 after which an investigation was ordered.

The chainsaw gangs set to work on the anniversary of Miss Holden's first mention of Violet Wood in her diary.

New work training for 100,000 school-leavers

By Colin Hughes

Detailed proposals for a new one-year course to prepare school leavers for the world of work were published yesterday. The certificate course is expected to be taken up by around 100,000 students, aged 17, after its launch in September next year.

Core areas will be covered by every student, to ensure development of skills in numeracy, communication, science and technology, and practical and social abilities.

Each student will also "taste" a variety of vocational studies,

and undergo work experience, real or simulated.

The certificate, to be called either the Certificate of Pre-vocational Education, or the Career Foundation Award, has been developed jointly by the Business and Technician Education Council, and the City and Guilds of London Institute.

At the end of each course every student will receive a profile written by his or her teacher, instead of grades, so that prospective employers can discover their applicants' overall achievement on the course.

'Princess of happiness'

The Princess of Wales, whose second baby is expected in September, was made an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Glasgow yesterday, at a formal half-hour ceremony in the college hall.

A past president of the college, Professor Stanley Alstead, said in a formal address: "By precept and example the Princess has reaffirmed the simple but profound relationship between physical health and mental tranquility."

Her motto should be "spread a little happiness as you go by", he said.

The Princess is patron of the College, which has 4,900 members and fellows.

The fellowship, although honorary, brings some privileges. A clause in its original charter, never rescinded, exempts college dignitaries from bearing arms, taking part in "wappenschaw" military parades or weapon shows - and serving as jurors at inquests and courts of justice.

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Focus on The Times Classified

Argentina awaits the return of La Señora

Alfonsín looks to Peronists for support

From Douglas Tweedale
Buenos Aires

When former President María Estela Martínez de Perón (Isabel) announced last Thursday she would return to Argentina from her Madrid home, President Raul Alfonsín obligingly postponed a round of talks with opposition leaders so she could head the delegation of the Peronist party. She is scheduled to return on May 20.

As much as a recognition of the political clout the reclusive widow of Juan Perón still wields even across the Atlantic, it was a demonstration of the effort. Señor Alfonsín is putting into mending fences with the movement which bears her name.

Besieged by increasingly harsh criticism of his economic policies, much of it from the second-place Peronists, President Alfonsín has found that a mere five months of trying to manage the Argentine crisis alone has eroded the political capital his Government had when it took office last December.

The euphoria of the return to democracy so visible in the first month has by and large disappeared, replaced by the more familiar Argentine impatience with civilian governments. In a speech to the opening of Congress last week, President Alfonsín made an impassioned plea for national unity and warned the country that it was "still at the edge of the abyss".

The talks the administration postponed to include Señora Perón are a series of formal dialogues with leaders of opposition political parties aimed at quelling some of the criticism and, in the words of government officials, "reaching a broad accord to solve the country's problems".



Señora Perón, who visited Argentina in December for the inauguration of President Alfonsín, waving as she left the Buenos Aires cemetery where her husband is buried.

President Alfonsín would particularly like to obtain a working consensus to back up his efforts to refinance Argentina's \$43.6 billion (about £30 billion) foreign debt, government sources said. Without the support of the still-powerful Peronists, who control the country's 1,100 unions, it would be impossible for the Government to implement the unpopular austerity measures that may be necessary to achieve this.

On Friday, the national Cabinet met to draw up the agenda the Government is willing to discuss with the opposition parties. The Interior Minister, Señor Antonio Troccoli, said afterwards, the Government would seek an accord on the debt problem, on policies to reactivate the domestic economy, on the nuclear energy programme, and on Argentina's border dispute with Chile over the Beagle Channel.

Señor Troccoli also said that multi-party "consulting commissions" would be formed after the initial round of talks, although both the Peronist Party and government officials have dismissed the idea of a coalition government.

When the talks begin on May 21, the figure of Señora Perón is likely to be a centre of attention. Paradoxically, although she has chosen to live in Madrid and take no active role in her party's politics, she is seen here as the only person with the authority to bring the fractious Peronist movement together.

In fact, government officials are said to be overjoyed that "La Señora", as she is known, has decided to return. Frustrated by the shifting rivalries and competing authorities of the current Peronist leadership, they hope Señora Perón's famous last name, if not her political acumen, will provide the solid authority needed to enter negotiations.

Before she announced her return, the Peronist leadership had twice asked for a postponement of the dialogue with the Government in confusion over who would represent the party.

Campaign to re-elm America

Harrisville, New Hampshire (AP)

Armed with a razor blade and working in a converted 137-year-old mill, Mr Zeke Goodland is raising thousands of tiny elm trees that he hopes will soon spread their branches across the country.

They are new American liberty elms. And in much the same way as humans can shake colds, the trees sprouting at the Elm Research Institute are able to shake the Dutch elm disease that has wiped out millions of stately elms in the past 50 years.

The institute is so confident of the tree, part of its "Johnny Elmseed" project to re-elm America, that they come with a 10-year guarantee.

"If they die of Dutch elm disease, we will replace the tree, free, at the size they are when they die," an institute spokeswoman said.

A professor of plant pathology and forestry, Professor Eugene Smalley, helped to develop the disease-resistant tree at the University of Wisconsin.

Bush to put pressure on Japan

From Richard Handson
Tokyo

Vice-President George Bush and Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, are in Tokyo this week for separate talks with Japanese leaders on a wide range of thorny economic and political issues before the London summit of major industrial countries next month. Mr Bush, who arrived yesterday, is expected to press Japan for further measures to liberalize trade and financial markets.

Mr Thorn will focus on the strains imposed by the large deficit in trade between the EEC and Japan.

A group of 10 EEC ambassadors in Tokyo this week asked the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry to take "dramatic" steps to reduce the trade surplus with the Community.

Meanwhile, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, arrives in Tokyo this week to discuss Japanese efforts to bolster its military strength.

Afghan rebel chief slips out of Panjshir valley

Delhi (AP)

Soviet forces, which three weeks ago launched their biggest offensive since the occupation of Afghanistan, have pushed at least halfway into the strategic Panjshir valley, according to diplomatic sources. But Afghan rebels are said to be holding out.

Their leader, Ahmad Shah Masood, has slipped out of the valley and is planning more attacks. Western diplomats said. Mujahidin losses have

been light, with the exception of an outside contingent which arrived on May 1 or 2 from a neighbouring valley and was attacked in the open. About 200 rebels are believed to have been killed.

The Soviet offensive began on April 21 with high-altitude bombing of the 100-mile valley. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 Russian and Afghan troops attacked in what is known as the Panjshir 7th campaign.

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Duarte assumes control and promises to keep out foreign troops

Señor Napoleón Duarte yesterday settled into the role of President of El Salvador, discussing policies and issuing calls to the international community.

With the official count still incomplete, the Christian Democrat nevertheless gave a victory news conference in which he insisted he would not allow foreign troops into the country. "Neither Nicaragua, or Cuba, nor the United States," would send troops while he was President. But Señor Duarte did acknowledge his dependence on American financial aid.

The consensus appears to be that he won Sunday's presidential election with 55 per cent of the votes against Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's 45 per cent. Señor Duarte said his rival's Arena party would not participate in the Government because it was undemocratic.

The President-elect said he would set up a special commission "to track down the death squads" - probably the greatest obstacle El Salvador faces in its attempt to consolidate its fledgling, and still fragile, democracy.

Señor Duarte, who is expected to take office on June 1, reiterated his call for a social pact to unify Salvadorans. He would include the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the right-wing Major D'Aubuisson is guaranteed to find particularly offensive.

From John Carlin, San Salvador

After the news conference, Señor Duarte issued a communiqué in which he made it clear that his Government would depend crucially on United States aid. "We need adequate economic and military assistance urgently from all the democratic governments of the world, especially from the American Government," the statement said.

Señor Duarte appealed to democracies to "help the people of El Salvador and simultaneously contribute to the security and stability of our hemisphere." Radio Venceremos, the rebel mouthpiece, said the new President would be "a puppet who will call for the biggest American intervention in our nation". It claimed that guerrillas had impeded voting in 92 of El Salvador's 261 municipalities - "a triumph over the electoral force".

● WASHINGTON: Heartened by Señor Duarte's projected victory, President Reagan is to make a nationwide televised address tonight to increase pressure on Congress to approve new military aid to El Salvador (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The address, a year after the President's historic speech on Central America before a joint session of Congress, is seen as an attempt to appeal to the American public over the heads of Congress to support administration policy in the region, particularly its backing

of the Salvadorean Government against Cuban and Nicaraguan-backed insurgents.

President Reagan's requests for \$62m (about £45m) in emergency aid and \$132.5m in the 1985 Foreign Aid Bill have been stalled by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, where there is deep concern about growing American military involvement in the area.

A key vote on aid to Central America is due later this week. The President discussed the region during a meeting with the bipartisan congressional leadership yesterday. Señor Duarte is expected to visit Washington later this month to lobby for increased assistance.

Describing the projected result as most pleasing, President Reagan said El Salvador had "held a successful election that proved again they have made strides towards democracy".

Administration officials had been concerned that a D'Aubuisson victory would have made it even more difficult - if not impossible - to gain congressional approval for increased aid.

US officials were pleased with the large turnout and the relative lack of violence. A team of 21 American observers described the election as an overwhelming repudiation of leftist guerrillas.

Leading article, page 15



Riding high: Señor Duarte with jubilant supporters.

Chief of Shin Bet briefs Cabinet on Jewish terror case

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel's Cabinet was yesterday briefed by the chief of Shin Bet, the internal security service, about the investigation of 25 members of the Jewish terror network in the occupied West Bank and in detention.

Reporting of the case has been hampered by the strict military censorship and court orders.

The meeting took place in the framework of the Ministerial Defence Committee, proceedings of which are state secrets. Later, it was disclosed that the High Court had instructed the authorities to allow a number of the suspects to see their lawyers for the first time.

Before the ministerial session began, police, assisted by one of the suspects, reenacted the attempted assassination of two of the three radical Arab mayors ambushed in 1980. Film shot during the exercise is expected to be used as evidence.

Sources said the reconstruction took place at the homes of Mr Karim Khalef, the deposed mayor of Ramallah, who lost a foot in a blast and Mr Ebrahim Gawi, deposed mayor of El-Bireh, who escaped injury when his car blew up, blinding an Israeli Druze sapper. The police operation was based on an alleged written confession.

It is understood that the reconstruction was similar to one last week at the Islamic College in the West Bank city of Hebron, where four Arab students were killed last year in an attack by Jews.

Much of the information which the present investigation is based was gathered by a Shin Bet "mole" who had penetrated the Jewish underground in the West Bank. One suspect who was permitted back to Hebron under guard earlier this week for Independence Day celebrations was overheard telling fellow settlers: "There is nothing to do. They photographed and documented us for years."

Shortly before yesterday's Cabinet session, the military censor permitted publication of

a story already widely known in Israeli journalistic circles, that one of the men under arrest is a major in the Army, who held a key position in the administration which runs the West Bank.

The officer was one of six other Jewish suspects picked up in a second wave of arrests at the weekend and who, like the others, cannot be identified.

Officers call for Sharon inquiry

Five Israeli Army reserve officers who commanded units in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon called yesterday for a state inquiry into their claims that Mr Ariel Sharon, then Defence Minister, had been responsible for unnecessary casualties in evading command procedures and ordering action for political purposes (our Tel Aviv correspondent writes).

Three colonels and two majors appeared at a press conference here. Their spokesman, Colonel (Reserve) Ran Cohen, said Mr Sharon had ordered a march southward from the Damascus-Beirut highway to create a confrontation with the Syrians.

One result of the affair has been to cause a deep split among the settlers. Some ultra-nationalists demand that a fighting force be established to defend the settlers when the case is heard, while the umbrella Jewish Settlement Council for Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) has decided against giving any legal aid.

● Israeli denial: Israeli military sources yesterday denied Lebanese radio reports that Israeli gunboats had approached the north Lebanese coast on Monday or that they had subsequently drawn Syrian artillery fire.

Argentina seeks new dialogue with Britain

Vienna (Reuters) - Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, called for dialogue with Britain as a preliminary to negotiations with London over the Falklands Islands.

Señor Caputo said after a three-day visit here that dialogue between the two countries would remove misunderstandings.

"We are absolutely in favour of solving territorial conflicts by diplomatic means only," he said, noting that progress had been achieved by negotiation in Argentina's other territorial conflict with neighbouring Chile.

London should have no qualms about negotiating with the new administration, which represented a stable democracy, Argentina was ready to be as flexible as possible and hoped Britain would behave in similar way.

Zimbabwe bans correspondents

Harare (Reuters) - Zimbabwe has banned foreign journalists based in South Africa from a government-sponsored trip to the troubled Matabeleland province, a government spokesman said yesterday.

They include *The Times* correspondent in Johannesburg, Michael Hornsby.

The clampdown follows criticism of South African-based correspondents on Sunday by the Information Minister, Mr Nathan Shamuyirira, who accused them of writing false stories about Zimbabwe.

Tutu snubbed by Archbishop

Melbourne - Dr Donald Robinson, the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, has refused to chair a public meeting at which Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa will be the guest speaker because he claims it has been advertised as an anti-apartheid rally (Tony Duboudin writes).

He said the meeting "appeared to be a gesture of support for the South African Council of Churches against the Government of South Africa".

Namibia editor acquitted

Johannesburg (AP) - Ms Gwen Lester, political editor of the *Windhoek Observer* in Namibia, has been acquitted of possessing banned literature - material she collected at a United Nations forum on the future of the disputed territory.

Ms Lester, aged 30, said in court she did not know some of the documents were banned, others she needed in her job as contributor to the British and Canadian broadcasting corporations.

Island claim

Brussels - The European Commission is to investigate a complaint from Mr Frans Neel-Bakke, the former British Labour MP, that the Greek Government has illegally confiscated his 10,000-acre forest estate on the Aegean island of Euboea. He is claiming £120m in compensation.

Dinner date

Bonn (AP) - Chancellor Kohl will meet President Mitterand in Saarbrücken, on May 20 to discuss the European situation at an informal dinner without aides, in preparation for the EEC summit on Fontainebleau in late June.

Minister sacked

Tunis (AFP) - The Tunisian Interior Secretary, Mr Ahmed Benroua, responsible for national security, was dismissed yesterday by President Habib Bourguiba, as a consequence of the bloody riots in Tunisia in January.

Basque riot

Bilbao (Reuters) - One man was shot and seriously wounded by police during rioting on Tuesday night in the Basque region. One person was arrested and five Bilbao banks were damaged.

1,203 freed

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korea has freed 1,203 convicted criminals under President Chun Doo Hwan's clemency order marking Buddha's birthday. The order did not include any political dissidents.

Ferry toll 22

Chittagong (Reuters) - The death toll after a ferry capsized near the resort town of Cox's Bazar on Sunday rose to 22 yesterday as 16 more bodies were found. Eight people were still missing.

Taxi strike

Rome (Reuters) - About 3,000 taxi drivers disrupted traffic in Rome yesterday at the start of an indefinite strike to back demands for higher fares.

Peking congress

Peking - China's National People's Congress is due to meet in the second half of May, according to official sources.

Four die in Panama election clashes

Panama City (AFP) - At least four people were killed when partisans of Panama's two main contenders in Sunday's presidential election clashed outside parliament on Monday night as the official vote recount started inside. Hospitals reported that they were treating 30 wounded people.

Shots were heard and cars seen burning.

The parties backing former President Arnulfo Arias, aged 83, who was overthrown 16 years ago by the late General Omar Torrijos, accused "armed rabble" of opening fire.

Señor Victor Bonilla, aged 60, whose left arm was pierced by a bullet, said the fighting had started "when the Torrijistas tried to take away our Arias Banner". His backers accused the 60 policemen guarding Parliament of withdrawing when a Torrijista mob arrived.

The Army announced it was trying to locate snipers hidden near Parliament, and keep the violence under control.

Fighting broke out after a day in which the Conservative Señor Arias and army-backed Señor Nicolás Ardito, aged 45, both claimed to be leading in the vote count.

Sandinistas claim 15 rebels killed

Managua (Reuters, AFP) - Nicaragua claimed yesterday that 15 rebels were killed when 100 attacked a southern border post but were beaten back.

The defence Ministry said four Nicaraguan civilians, including two children, died in the raid on the Palo de Arco border crossing into Costa Rica.

Rebels of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (Arde), operating from Costa Rican bases, frequently attack southern Nicaragua.

In a similar attack last Thursday on Penas Blancas in the south-west, Costa Rican rural guards exchanged fire across the border with Sandinista soldiers for the first time. The Costa Rican Government claimed.

The US State Department then announced that Costa Rica had asked for emergency military aid.

Eleven wounded guerrillas, including three Costa Ricans, were taken on Monday to a hospital at Los Chiles in Costa Rica. They told journalists that they only knew of three Arde attackers being killed at Palo de Arco.

Modernizing EEC farms

Britain angered by £6bn spending plan

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Britain protested strongly yesterday at European Commission plans to spend £6bn over the next five years on modernizing EEC agriculture.

Mr John MacGregor, the British Minister at the Agriculture Council, complained that this "massive increase" would mean that the community would spend three times as much on modernizing as at present. The amount was well beyond what was available, even if the Community budget was increased.

His protest won enough support for the Commission to agree to rethink its plans. He also won agreement that the Community would have to make allowances for the effect on the environment of the modernization. This point had been overlooked by the Commission in drawing up its programme for structural development of farming.

The council also learnt that the EEC's huge wine lake was going to become even larger by the end of the year than had

been estimated. Commission figures showed that Italy had underestimated its production by some 132 million gallons.

This infuriated France, which claimed it would lose out heavily in consequence. It called on the Commission to draw up proposals for a new wine-production control system.

During the two-day meeting Ireland very reluctantly agreed to allow New Zealand to continue sending butter to Britain for a further two months, despite strong pressure from all other member states to agree to a five-year import deal.

Ireland argued that it was more involved in the dairy sector than any other country and therefore stood to lose most by a continuing deal with New Zealand. The "roll over" of the agreement for two months means that it will next come up for review after Ireland takes over as president of the Council of Ministers.

Italy helps thousands of quake victims

From John Earle, Rome

The Italian authorities sent columns of caravans and lorries laden with tents yesterday for the thousands made homeless by the severe earthquake which struck a broad area of the Apennines stretching from Rome to Naples on Monday. Officially three people were listed as dead - one woman aged 89 from a heart attack - and 61 injured. But the figures were expected to rise as telephone and road communications were restored with outlying mountain villages.

Provisional estimates cited at least 2,000 homeless in Isernia province and 1,500 in L'Aquila, with an undetermined number in Frosinone, the third affected province.

Signor Giuseppe Zamberletti, who toured the main towns, said the area affected was larger than that hit by the recent earthquake in Umbria, but less populated. It is also less rich in works of art. In some small towns, however, up to 50 per cent of buildings were reported uninhabitable. In the village of Opi the Mayor ordered evacuation of all 590 inhabitants, as the houses are built on a steep slope.

Nevertheless, the casualties appear light considering the severity of the first main shock measuring eight on the Italian Mercalli scale. At L'Aquila, people reported a feeling of nausea in the stomach as the shock came, and said they saw trees shaking violently as in a gale.

The area is just north of that hit by the November 1980 earthquake in the Naples-Basilicata zone, in which 3,000 people died.

● SALONIKA: Northern Greece was shaken around dawn yesterday by an earth tremor registering a mid-range 4.7 on the open-ended Richter scale, the university here said. There were no immediate reports of casualties (AFP reports).



Up the blues: Father Jacko Ryan's T-shirt implores the Pope to pray for his football team, Everton.

Nigeria to cut spending and raise interest rate

Lagos (Reuters/AFP) - Nigeria's military rulers, having just replaced the country's treasury, have set an austerity budget for 1984.

In a nationwide broadcast on Monday night, Major-General Muhammad Buhari, the Head of State, said government spending this year would be cut by 15 per cent from that envisaged in a budget presented by the last civilian government two days before it was toppled on New Year's Eve.

The Government would now concentrate on improving its balance of payments by cutting

imports General Buhari said. He announced that interest rates would rise by between 1.5 and two percentage points and promised easier access to credit for small farmers in an effort to boost food production.

The country's 19 states would be barred from raising loans abroad this year, part of a government move to tackle foreign debts. The Government would make every effort to keep oil production, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of foreign exchange, up to the 1.3 million barrels per day quota set by OPEC.

Uproar at anti-British bias accusation

Canberra (AFP) - The Australian House of Representatives broke into uproar yesterday when the Opposition accused the Government of an anti-British bias in its immigration policies.

Mr Lewis Kent, a ruling Labour Party backbencher, clambered over the Government's front bench and threatened to assault members of the opposition, calling them "a bunch of racist bastards". Mr Kent obviously distressed, was

led from the chamber and later apologized to the House for his "temperamental behaviour".

Mr Stewart West the Immigration Minister claimed that the Government's immigration policy was neither anti-British nor pro-Asian but dependent on globally non-discriminatory policies.

During question time, the Opposition asked Mr West why the Government had stopped consulting the Big Brother movement, a group

sponsoring selected British migrants, on proposed immigration. Mr West said that immigration from the United Kingdom and Ireland had dropped only 4 per cent in two years.

Mr Kent told Parliament that prior to settling in Australia 30 years ago from Yugoslavia, he had witnessed "racism at its worst" and seen people put to death as result of fascist policies.

All emergency vehicles at Mount Hagen airport raced alongside the tarmac as it landed.

The Pope was said to have been interrupted but local aviation officials said there could have been extreme difficulties in landing if the weather had not been clear and sunny.

● Honiara, Solomon Islands: The Government, imposing security measures for the Pope's one-day visit, yesterday cancelled the accreditation of an Associated Press photographer and ordered him to leave the country (AP reports).

Mr Neil Ulevich, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, had flown to Honiara from Papua New Guinea to make photo arrangements for the Pope's visit. He was given less than two hours notice to leave.

Mass with the Pope for tribe that killed missionaries

From Jim Oram, Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea

Fifty years ago the Chimbu took an immediate dislike to the first two Catholic missionaries who came their way in the highlands of Papua New Guinea and shot them full of arrows. Yesterday, the Chimbu celebrated mass with the Pope.

It was a point not lost on the Pope when he stood before more than 100,000 people, many in plumes and paint scattered like tropical butterflies among the dark throng, on the old golf course at Mount Hagen. "The Church has indeed put down her roots among the beloved people of this country," he said.

The mass brought to the highlands all the ancient and colourful rituals of the Vatican, except this time the congregation caught the eye of the

observer possibly more than those conducting the service.

It was difficult to judge who was the most elaborately dressed - the Pope, surrounded by cardinals and bishops or the tribespeople of the highlands.

The Huli wore fat wigs of human hair decorated with the iridescent blue breast shield of the bird of paradise, backed by a spray of parrot tail feathers, grass, white possum fur and head band of snakeskin.

The Duna were crowned with parrot feathers, around their foreheads a band of tiny white beads and cowrie shells from which hung a string of pearl shell and in their noses were pig tusks.

The Mende had faces of blue, yellow, red and white and the Nundagal had possum skins hanging from their shoulders like drum majors.

And never far from the hands of the men were their stone axes, their bone-tipped spears, their arrows that can kill a bird at 30 yards.

In their fantasy costumes, their bodies shiny with palm oil, they took Communion beneath the hot sun.

Events at Mount Hagen seemed larger than life, with even some priests displaying certain eccentricities.

Father Jacko Ryan, who left the green hills of County Wicklow, Ireland, for the purple-black mountains of Mount Hagen, conducted the choir wearing a T-shirt urging the Pope to lend his support to Everton, his far off but not forgotten football team. "Pope

John Paul pray for Everton," it implored on the front. The rear of the shirt boasted: "Everton - God's gift to Liverpool."

Father Ryan, his long black beard swaying in tune to the music he conducted vigorously, said: "We must beat Watford. Maybe this will help."

Police used batons and dogs to keep the photographers in line. Nor were police reluctant to use their batons when the congregation became over-enthusiastic.

The Pope, displaying his natural linguistic ability, conducted the entire Mass in pidgin, beginning: "Long mem bilong Papa na bilong son, na bilong Spiritu Santu (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost)."

The Pope's jet made an emergency landing at Mount Hagen after one engine cut out while flying over the mountain-

ous terrain. All emergency vehicles at Mount Hagen airport raced alongside the tarmac as it landed.

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UN chief's envoy offers temporary emigration to 11 Solidarity prisoners

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A senior United Nations envoy, on a special mission from the Secretary-General, has been holding secret talks over the past week with 11 imprisoned Solidarity leaders and advisers and has offered them the possibility of temporary emigration. The move comes amid intensive negotiations at several levels on the terms of the prisoners' possible release.

The envoy, Señor Emilio de Olivares, is an executive assistant to the Secretary-General, Señor Pérez de Cuellar, and accompanied him on a trip to Warsaw earlier this year. He was closely involved in negotiating the release of Miss Alicja Wesołowska, a Polish United Nations employee who was jailed after being accused of spying for American intelligence.

Señor de Olivares was led to believe by the Polish authorities that there were conditions under which the Solidarity leadership could be released and his secret visit last week was intended to accelerate the process.

The Solidarity 11 - who include the long-standing dissidents Mr Jacek Kuron and Mr Adam Michnik as well as Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, deputy to Mr Lech Wałęsa - have previously refused offers of emigration directly offered by the Polish authorities on the grounds that this would amount to enforced political exile.

The de Olivares concept seems to be that the prisoners could leave under United Nations guarantees, for six months to a year and then return.



Mr Jacek Kuron: Talked to Señor de Olivares.

Señor de Olivares, diplomat says, was here on government invitation and the authorities gave him full access to the prisoners.

Meanwhile, four former Solidarity advisers, including Mr Bronisław Geremek and Mr Dariusz Mazowiecki, have been talking to six of the imprisoned Solidarity leaders in a government building in Otwock, outside Warsaw.

Solidarity sources say the prisoners were taken from the Rakowicka prison individually and spent several hours discussing the government proposal that they renounce political activity for two and a half years.

Solidarity sources say that in addition to these meetings, three former members of the dissident KOR group have also held talks with three of the four imprisoned KOR members, including Mr Jacek Kuron, Mr

Zbigniew Romaszewski and Mr Henryk Wujec.

One Solidarity leader, Mr Seweryn Jaworski and One dissident, Mr Adam Michnik, have apparently decided not to take part in the discussions. Mr Michnik has long argued that the Polish authorities should either put him on trial or release him - there was no middle course.

The Government clearly wants to avoid the embarrassment of a show trial of the Solidarity 11. It would, say some government advisers, reopen social wounds that should be allowed to heal, produce martyrs and give fresh life to the remnants of the underground. Neither would it speed the lifting of Western sanctions against Poland.

Some Nato governments, notably the United States, have emphasized the importance of the fate of the 11 Solidarity leaders, in their private discussions. The Roman Catholic church has also been putting across the same message.

High-level talks between church and state - in a further complication of an already complex bargaining situation - have been held on the Solidarity 11 and on political prisoners in general.

The negotiations are conducted through Archbishop Bronisław Dabrowski, secretary of the Polish Episcopate, and General Czesław Kiszczak, the Interior Minister. This is the only direct contact with the Government: other talks are being carried out through intermediaries (including some that have little sympathy for the Government's policies).



Greetings: Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, meets a Gurkha soldier's daughter on a recent visit to Hongkong's New Territories.

Hongkong lobby in Westminster

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A delegation from Hongkong has arrived in Britain to launch a campaign for more democracy in the colony long before 1997 when China will assume control. Recent polls have shown that up to 80 per cent of Hongkong people favour a switch to elected government. The group is in Britain for a week at its own expense.

Dr Ding Lik Kiu, leading the

seven-man group, spoke of an urgent need to democratize the colony long before 1997 when China will assume control. Recent polls have shown that up to 80 per cent of Hongkong people favour a switch to elected government. The group is in Britain for a week at its own expense.

Its campaign in the colony

has had a polite but positive brush-off from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, while Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was "too busy" during his recent visit. The delegation is trying to see Sir Geoffrey in London.

Britain has dismissed calls for more democracy by arguing that it would upset Peking.

Crucial talks begin today

Unesco faces up to its worst crisis

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The most serious crisis to have confronted the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) since its foundation in 1946 will dominate the proceedings of the organization's executive board, which opens in Paris today.

The crisis has been provoked by the decision of the United States to withdraw from Unesco at the end of the year unless certain radical changes are made in the organization's financial and personnel management and in the political orientation of some of its more controversial programmes, such as education for peace and disarmament and the so-called "New World Information Order" on press freedom.

The United States provides about a quarter of Unesco's budget of \$374m (£370m) for the two-year period 1984-5. Britain has also said that it would reconsider its membership at the end of the year unless radical changes are made. Its concerns are virtually identical to those of the United States. Both are pressing for zero growth in Unesco's 1986-7 budget.

A number of other countries have also privately expressed grave concern, including West Germany and Japan. France has been more supportive in public, but nevertheless shares much of the concern, and in particular favours greater financial rigour.

Mr Amadou M'Bow, director-general of the organization since 1974, has agreed to supply

a US congressional inquiry into allegations of financial inefficiency and malpractice at the organization's Paris-based secretariat with all the information it requires, but insists that he himself has no intention of resigning. He was unanimously re-elected in 1980 for a second six-year term.

The US inquiry, which is limited to questions of financial abuse and is not examining criticisms of the "politicization" of Unesco programmes, is expected to produce an interim report within the next few weeks, and a final report in the autumn. Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, has set up a separate advisory group to examine the degree of change that has taken place in Unesco over the year.

A series of proposed changes have been put forward in a discussion document drawn up by the 24 Western member states, including Britain, and submitted to Mr M'Bow. The Western nations have emphasized that it should not be considered as an ultimatum, however.

While some changes are expected to be recommended by the executive board during its current two-week meeting, particularly in the areas of greater financial accountability, improved personnel management and a better evaluation of programmes, they are not expected to be sufficient to satisfy Britain or the United States.

India halts border fence

DHAKA (Reuters) - India has agreed to suspend the erection of barbed-wire fencing along its border with Bangladesh, a military spokesman said yesterday.

Border security officials of the two countries met at the frontier town of Haridwar yesterday to try to defuse

tension aroused by shooting incidents last month in which two people were reported killed and several others injured.

The cross-border shooting started after Bangladesh soldiers and villages stopped Indian workers from erecting fencing along two stretches of the border.

Sakharov on death fast as wife is held

Moscow (Reuters) - Yelena Bonner, wife of Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident, has been confined to Gorky by the police. Dr Sakharov, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is on hunger strike, a friend of the family said yesterday.

Irina Kristi, a mathematician, told Western reporters she had visited her home in Gorky, a city about 250 miles east of Moscow and closed to foreigners, last Sunday and had spoken to the couple for three minutes before police detained her. Dr Sakharov was banished to Gorky in 1980 to halt his human rights campaigning.

Irina Kristi said Dr Sakharov told her he had started an indefinite hunger strike on May 2 to press the authorities to allow his wife to seek medical attention for a heart complaint in the West. "I am on hunger strike until the very end or until they (the authorities) let her go abroad for treatment," she quoted him as saying.

Yelena Bonner told Irina Kristi the police had accused her of anti-Soviet agitation and threatened to charge her with treason, which carries the death penalty. The police had ordered

her not to leave Gorky while they considered whether to file formal charges.

The woman mathematician said she had travelled to Gorky from Moscow to contact Dr Sakharov and his wife, who had been expected back in the capital last Wednesday but failed to appear. She said she was seized in the street by police after she started speaking to the Sakharovs. She was taken to a police station where she was held overnight.

She said she was charged with resisting arrest and fined 15 roubles (£13) before returning to Moscow by train on Monday. She said her telephone had been cut off yesterday.

Yelena Bonner, who is 60, was accused by Tass last week of planning to seek asylum in the US Embassy in Moscow and then press for the right to go to the West for treatment. The American Embassy formally rejected charges by Tass that it was involved in helping to plan such an operation.

Western diplomats had speculated that the Tass attack was an indication that measures had been taken to restrict Yelena Bonner to Gorky.

Busy time ahead for Chernenko

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The arrival in Moscow tomorrow of King Juan Carlos of Spain marks a new stage in President Chernenko's intensive even gruelling programme of Kremlin visitors, which diplomats say is designed to prove the Soviet leader is fully in charge.

Although Spain's Nato membership is frozen pending a referendum, the talks between Russia and Spain - once the bitterest of enemies - are seen in Moscow as part of the Kremlin's attempt to explore East-West dialogue through Western Europe rather than America, which is considered beyond the pale.

Since becoming President last month, Mr Chernenko has met President Koivisto of Finland, Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, and General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader.

With King Juan Carlos's visit, however, Mr Chernenko's busy programme really takes off, for he will be followed in swift succession by President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, and President Mitterrand of France. Another imminent visitor is Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, paving the way for Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in July.

It is a more impressive line-up of foreign dignitaries than President Andropov ever managed, remarked one Western diplomat. "Chernenko is having to break the logjam which built up during Andropov's long illness", Andropov disappeared from view from August 1983 until his death in February this year.

As if dealing with this growing queue of foreign visitors was not enough, Mr Chernenko is to host a summit meeting of Comecon, the economic arm of the Soviet bloc, next month. It is the first Comecon summit for nearly 13 years and is likely to be contentious.

The main absentee from Mr Chernenko's guest list is President Reagan, who is attacked daily by Tass as a criminal bent on world domination or world destruction. No high level Soviet-American exchanges are likely until after the November Presidential elections.

London taxi driver freed in LA murder case

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

After seven months in jail the London taxi-driver, Mr Ashley Paulie, was freed by a judge here who decided he did not have to stand trial on six counts of murder and two of robbery.

Another chapter in the bizarre case came to an abrupt end on Monday after a week of secret testimony. Judge Nancy Brown ruled that because Mr Paulie aged 43, had been offered immunity from prosecution.

Heart man sails

Mr James Hatfield, aged 28, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, who has a hole in his heart, set out from Penzance yesterday to sail around the world. He has had eight heart operations.

education, he could not be brought to trial for the murder of his neighbours, Peter and Joan Davis, an English couple who had moved to California and four members of the Israeli Salomon family who lived on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

The families disappeared in 1982 and the bodies have never been found. After Mr Paulie's release, the district attorney's office, embarrassed by having the case thrown out, announced it would appeal against the ruling, and Mr Paulie will have to return here on May 25 for an appeal hearing.

His lawyer, Mrs Leslie Abramson, argued that he had been promised immunity and returned voluntarily from London as a witness for the prosecution, only to discover he was charged with the murders.

Computer attack

Gütersloh, West Germany (AP) - Two men and a woman have been arrested and accused of attacking computer equipment with hammers and acid and doing £24,000 damage at a West German company display.

Madrid fears its own spies

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

The recent dismissal of two senior police officers in Madrid reflects government concern about rivalry between Spanish security forces, which has led to secret operations being compromised.

According to informed sources, the ministers are worried not so much by the tendency of police to spy on friendly spies as by the desire to grab headlines by revealing what the undercover agents are up to - or at least what the police think they are up to.

In the most recent known case, policemen at Chamartin railway station in Madrid arrested three men and a woman as they returned from France. All of them turned out to be agents of the Centre for Defence Information (Cesid),

Spain's principal intelligence service. The four were just back from Bordeaux, where they had carried out a mission, details of which have not been disclosed.

Much to the embarrassment of the Government, the media suggested the mission might have been related to activities of the mysterious GAL (Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups), which is dedicated to killing Spanish Basque extremists living in exile in France.

A Defence Ministry spokesman hastened to deny that the assignment had anything to do with GAL or the ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) movement. They did not, however, reveal what the four were doing. Señor Encarnación Carvajal, Commissioner of the Mobile Brigade, the police unit which

arrested the spies, was subsequently dismissed.

Last December, police discovered a member of Cesid, equipped with listening devices, in a flat next to the residence of the Vice-president of Spain's Constitutional Court, Justice Jeronimo Arozamena.

The Prime Minister, Señor Felipe González, later denied that the Government was spying on the judge, but he never explained what the agent was doing. At the time, the court was considering the constitutionality of the Government's action in expropriating the Rumasa company.

Some months later, the Commissioner-General for Citizens' Security, Señor José Lorenzo Perez, lost his post. He was chief of the police unit at the time it found the snoopers.

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THE ARTS

Faith Brook, in spite of much distinguished work, remains an actress looking for a focus to her career. Sheridan Morley interviews her as she prepares for this week's opening of *Morning's At Seven* at the Palace Theatre, Watford

In search of all the old classical values

Morning's At Seven, which opens at the Palace Theatre, Watford, on Friday (after a run of previews), and should it all go well be following *On the Spot* next month, is a remarkable assemblage of a remarkable strong trio of actresses (Teresa Wright, Margaret Tyacke and Faith Brook) for Paul Osborn's long-running and award-winning Broadway comedy about the lives of a family of sisters in a small American town early in the 1930s. And although it is Miss Wright who gets the top billing in this mid-Western Chekhov, presumably on the strength of a movie career which goes back to *The Little Foxes*, Mrs Miniver (which won her a 1942 Oscar) and *Best Years of our Lives*, it might be recalled that she is not the only member of the cast to have strong Californian connections.

Faith, the only daughter of Clive Brook (a founding father of that Hollywood Raj of tight-lipped British acting officers and gentlemen who formed a studio colony during the 1930s which faithfully recorded on film the one that their parents had created a generation earlier in India and Australia and Africa), was born in York in 1922 but taken to California at 18 months. "I stayed there until I was 12, and then I was sent back to school in England and eventually I got into RADA in the generation of Denholm Elliott and Sheila Sim; but when the war broke out my mother decided that my brother Lyndon and I would be better off back in California, so I started my career out there with a bit in *Suspicion*. I was the girl in the beginning who lost Cary Grant to Joan Fontaine.

"But I don't think actors' children today, the generation of Redgrave and Millers who came after us, have any idea what it was like being an actor's child in the early 1930s. The first time I went out in public with my father was to see Ivor Novello in *Glamorous Night*, and I was literally almost killed by a stampede on the pavement outside the theatre: hundreds of people trying to touch my father's clothes, to make sure that the man they had seen on the screen with Dietrich in *Shanghai Express* was really standing there. Film stars in the 1930s were godlike, and for their families it was often impossible. I don't think even now, in my sixties, I've ever quite got over being his daughter. The trouble was that, although in many ways he was a very good father, he had an extreme Victorian belief in self-sufficiency and he would only ever help in times of absolute desperation. Even when I was acting on Broadway in the 1950s and he was doing a play called *Father and Daughter* he refused even to let me audition because he was terrified people might accuse him of nepotism, and he was so determined that my brother and I should not be spoiled by Hollywood that we led a far more spartan life out there than most children in Victorian London."

Faith Brook's career also suffered considerably from her mother's determination to take her back to Hollywood at the outset of war: "I worked on

Faith Brook in the mid-West of *Morning's At Seven*

the stage a bit in California and New York, but then I had the offer of a play back in England, a farce with Robertson Hare called *Arrest Men Beasts*. We opened in Bristol, where there was a lot of publicity about my being Clive's daughter, and it became clear that not only had I been living in California, but that I was now back home and not in the army."

This was 1941: Miss Brook was then 19, and it needs to be recalled that there was a singularly nasty press campaign running at the time entitled "Gone With the Wind Up" and aimed at actors who had decided not to return home from Hollywood at the declaration of war. It was decided that examples needed to be made, and she was one of the first:

"A lot of actors had been avoiding

call-up by slipping into ENSA and they decided this had to stop, so I was sent smartly into an ATS brigade in Warrington and then used on a lot of army recruiting posters. After a while they realized that I was really only a good at the acting and so they let me transfer to Stars in Battledress, and from then on things looked up a lot. First of all I spent a year in Rattigan's *Flare Path* all over England and then we began touring army bases in Italy and Greece which was where I met Hugh Hunt, who immediately after the war invited me to join the first season of the Old Vic company he was then forming in Bristol. I did a year there and then graduated to the London Old Vic in the Edith Evans-Cedric Hardwicke season, playing Millamant and then Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and Helen

in *Dr Faustus*. That was when my career really seemed to take off and I think perhaps if I'd had the perseverance of my father, and his narrow-mindedness, I could have gone on to a good line of classical work with the major companies. But somehow things didn't work out quite like that."

What happened was that she had met an American doctor, married him and decided to live in America: "My father always taught me that to succeed in the theatre you had to be totally single-minded and put acting before family or love or anything, somehow I could never quite do that, which is I suppose why my career has been so patchy, although ironically I think now I have begun to do some of the absolute dedication to the business of acting that he was talking about all those years ago."

Once back in New York, in a marriage that quite soon went to pieces, Faith Brook had to start out on a career all over again: "Nobody had heard of me on Broadway, so I went into very early 1950s live television drama and became 'old reliable', the actress they always cast to give the others confidence. I was a sort of in-vision prompter, there to fill in all the lines that the others would forget in their terror of the new medium. I did one play like that every month for three years; then I got into the original *Dial M for Murder* and after that I came back to London to do Charles Morgan's *The Burning Glass*. Everybody thought, though, that I had only come back here on a visit for that one production, so after it closed I spent another year out of work and had to start rebuilding a career for about the fourth time in fifteen years."

Along the way she married and divorced another doctor, having had one son who is now a linguist at Cambridge, and then after some distinguished stage work in the 1960s she joined Prospect to play Gertrude in Ian McKellen's 1971 *Hamlet*.

"Then, at last, I thought I was back on the right classical track but it led to precisely nothing, and it's only been in the last couple of years with *The Irish RM* on television and a revival of interest in ladies of a certain imperial style that my career has begun to come back into any kind of focus. There seems to be a lot of interest now in tales of the Empire, and they demand women with a certain kind of class and style which I seem able to manage. But, where the French have Signoret and the Americans have Bancroft, the English still don't seem to know what to do with women of my generation unless they need us for period epics."

Perhaps for that reason, Faith Brook has lately been doing a lot of teaching at the Guildhall and the Actors Centre: "I now live totally in the theatre, and I have to say that I'm still very keen for a kind of classical recognition which I think I had briefly in the 1940s and then lost by going back to America. I've been in the business too long to end up in a failure, and late in life I've begun to learn something of what my father put into being a star: I just hope it's not too late."

It is difficult to know where an expert in disinformation draws the line, if at all, between truth and falsehood. Mr Eschel Rhoades, former head of the South African Department of Information in London, main witness in Central's detailed exposure, The British Desk of BOSS (the Bureau of State Security) and a self-acknowledged disinformation expert, says that the South African Prime Minister P. W. Botha was lying when he accused him of wasting £60m. of taxpayers' money.

Mr Rhoades says he spent it with full Cabinet approval. Some weight was given to his claim by a former head of BOSS who said Mr Rhoades deserved a medal. The latter is not repentant about his work, merely aggrieved about lack of recognition. He said last night that two British Labour MPs had been paid for information about anti-apartheid campaign plans here. He was inhibited about naming them but said their information had enabled BOSS to make spoiling moves.

Television
Damage control

These included sending out notices cancelling meetings or changing dates and, in one case, producing a similar newspaper couched in terms less inimical to South Africa. He also described plans to gain control of *The Observer* and *The Guardian*. The journalist Mr Gordon Winter, a self-styled BOSS recruit, said he had photographed nearly every South African activist in London. He had also gained access to National Union of Journalists files and "I damaged many British journalists".

A BOSS defector, Mr Arthur McGovern, described how people such as Peter Hain were watched so that counter-cam-

paigns were available. He also alleged that a South African diplomat, thought to have been involved in burglaries at the South African National Congress office in London in 1982, had been allowed to get out of the country before the story broke in a court case. This, he thought, indicated "some level of liaison between the British and South African authorities".

Even discounting Mr Rhoades completely, the producer Paul Claxton's programme was strong enough to cause considerable disquiet.

Disinformation about William the Conqueror, rather a historical baddie, and traditional hero Harold, to whom he gave one in the eye, was the subject of BBC2's excellent *Timewatch*. *The Conquest and the Conqueror*, coinciding with the *Romanesque* exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, Diana Lashmore's re-appraisal is worth a repeat.

Dennis Hackett

Concert

Wagner's song of universality

LPO/Tennstedt
Festival Hall

When Jessye Norman is singing, there seems less cause to question the morality of forming bleeding chunks of Wagner. On Monday, in the atmosphere of boiling romanticism generated by Klaus Tennstedt, the result was frustrating only to the extent that it left one's appetite whetted for the whole thing.

Miss Norman was in superlative voice, even for her. She knows exactly how to pace the music of the "Liebestod" from *Tristan und Isolde*, and she was careful not to inject it with too much energy. Hence the universal side of its meaning was maintained, quite rightly, at the expense of the element of

human tragedy. As in the Prelude, which Tennstedt took at a pace that approached Bernstein-like deliberation, Wagner was heard to be feeling the air if not of Schoenberg's planet then of one far removed from our earth.

In the Immolation scene that ends *Götterdämmerung* the singing was equally magical, though somewhat paradoxically it seemed rooted to a more familiar world. Miss Norman's Brünnhilde was heard to be a human being through and through, as in reality is Wagner's that very fact increases the awesomeness of the noble heroine and her self-sacrifice. Projecting with commanding clarity, Miss Norman's consistently rich and free voice gloriously intensified Brünnhilde's personal emotions, while

at the same time she fully realized the larger implications of the character's suicide.

Tennstedt lacked this sense to the end of Siegfried's Funeral March and before that conducted the *Dawd* music from the same opera's Prelude and the music of Siegfried's journey to the Rhine. Both he and in the Venusberg music from *Tannhäuser* his tendency to accentuate served the music well and a few rough edges apart the London Philharmonic Orchestra played splendidly throughout. The brass and percussion thoroughly enjoyed themselves and for the most part the strings sounded ripe, while among a distinguished woodland section the principal oboe of Gareth Huile made some notable contributions, as so often.

Stephen Pettitt

London debuts

Chained to the printed notes

The 37-year-old Japanese cellist Kyofu Mohri started his recital with a Beethoven Sonata in D minor which showed a disciplined, technique, assiduously capable of obeying carefully charted interpretative points on a melody, grateful instrument. That Mr Mohri's performance went little further than this during the evening was due to both the limits of that technique and its apparently consequent imaginative constriction.

Physically, Mr Mohri did not seem completely at ease: the body breathing was not always coordinated with that of the cello, duelling the rhapsodic phrasing of Schumann's *Three Fantastic Pieces*; and his bowing too, was often awkward and

tense. Combined with an unwillingness to listen for the heart of a note and pitch it accurately in either intonation or expressive intensity, this led to a strangely unanchored slack performance of Beethoven's Sonata in G minor, Op 5 No 2. Not that Mr Mohri was helped by his accompanist, Yasuko Katayama, who, like him, was chained to the music, but rather less able to execute it without difficulty.

It was a pity that Mr Mohri did not offer us something from his repertoire of contemporary Japanese works; instead, the twentieth century was represented by the Suite for Cello by the Spanish cellist Gaspar

Cassado, who himself married a Japanese pianist. Mr Mohri played its cosmopolitan collage of styles and moods with more verve and enthusiasm, if only a little more accuracy, and their. He ended his recital valiantly with Dohnanyi's Sonata, Op 8.

Hilary Finch

Harold Prince directs *Rose*, a new musical with book and lyrics by Julian More and score by Gilbert Bécud, which opens at the Adelphi Theatre on June 26 (with previews from June 12). *Rose*, which is based on Romain Gary's *La Vie devant soi*, stars Georgia Brown in the title role.

Opera

First thoughts prove superior

I Lombardi
La Scala, Milan

Better cast, better conductor, better production, and, on the evidence, better opera. That is the verdict on La Scala's revival - after an absence of more than 30 years - of Verdi's *I Lombardi alla prima crociata*, which follows just two months after the reappearance in Paris of *Jerusalem*, his French adaptation of the same work.

Enterprising as the Opéra's exhumation of *Jerusalem* undoubtedly was, the production failed to make a virtue of Verdi's large ensembles or lead a dramatic cogency to the plot. The remarkable feature of La Scala's treatment of the original version, premiered there in 1843, is the confidence it shows in Verdi's own nascent dramatic and musical sense. The production is a vindication of *I Lombardi* against the accumulated jibes of crudity and unevenness with which it has had to live for so long, and it throws into sharp relief how Verdi blurred the stamp of his own character as an opera composer in the later French version.

La Scala's director was Gabriele Lavia, one of Italy's most experienced Shakespearean actors and producers, whose earlier work at La Scala

was confined to a production two years ago of Gluck's *Les Péloides de la Mecque* at the Piccola Scala. Lavia and his designer, Giovanni Agostinucci, devised a series of representational settings, which, in their simplicity of design and colour, their aesthetic beauty and dramatic effectiveness, created a framework of spartan grandeur against which the personal interplay of character could be outlined.

The motif of a blood-red cross, acting as a double-edged symbol for the crusades, underlined the artistic unity of the production; it decorated the crusaders' banners and appeared on the billowing standard, through which - in a coup de théâtre in Act IV - the battle for the holy city was depicted in silhouette.

But Lavia was most ambitious of all in his handling of the chorus. The atmospheric gathering of cut-throats in Act I brought out an unexpected irony in the music, and the harem chorus - one of the least inspired parts of the score - was enlivened by a modest ballet. The larger-scale ensembles were invested with a strict, singular formality. The haunting cries of "Jerusalem" in the Act III pilgrims' chorus, for example, were wafted through a dawn mist from back-stage, and "O Signore, dal tetto natio" -

Verdi's follow-up to "Va pensiero" was sung (and given an encore) by ranks of uniformed crusaders strung across the stage like an impenetrable battle formation.

This ability to pluck a dramatic plum from every scene lent Solera's libretto a modest theatrical respectability, and made the sight of Jerusalem in the finale - bathed in setting sun - a logical, credible and triumphant climax. But it was the quality of musical performance under Gianandrea Gavazzeni, rather than the visual production, that made the first-night audience so unusually well-behaved. Gavazzeni has wound down his international commitments in recent years, but he still manages to conduct a couple of productions each season at La Scala, where he was music director in the late Fifties and Sixties. His work in the pit is always spry and rewarding; his contribution here was to elicit a virtuoso alertness from the orchestra, shape the melodic lines with flattering breadth, and allow nothing in the score to sound second-rate.

Ghena Dimitrova was as warmly received as during her Turandot performances at the start of the season, though her voice is really too big for Giselda. She swept through the vocal line with an invigorating arc, but in faster passages like



Dimitrova, Carroli and Carlo Bini as Arvino in the final scene

the magnificent *prestissimo* at the end of the Act II ensemble, which Verdi dropped in the French version, her articulation of the notes was sketchy. Her "Salve Maria" was none the less very fine, and she managed a true *fil di voce* at the end of the duet. Like Zeffirelli in *Turandot*, Lavia was able to bring out the better side of her stage appearance, although his depiction of her in battle dress for the final scene - contradicting Giselda's earlier pacifist sentiments - was a mistake.

Silvano Carroli in the baritone role of Pagano was the only member of the cast who also

sang in the Paris production. He looked and sounded happier here, though neither visually nor vocally does he have a distinctive personality. José Carreras made an outstanding Oronte, moving with his customary poise and phrasing here with the kind of dramatic expressiveness that sets the tenor writing alight with romantic ardour. The crux of the opera is the Act III trio, more strategically placed than in *Jerusalem* and with the bonus of an exquisite violin solo. It was not perfectly balanced here, but it still breathed the compassionate human strength that

marks out Verdi's finest moments.

So, in spite of austerity measures announced at the start of the season and an abrupt postponement of the first night of *I Lombardi* because of industrial action, La Scala has capped *Turandot*'s success with a production worthy to stand among its best Verdi repertory. With a new *Don Pasquale*, Patrice Chéreau's production of *Lucio Silla* and the second instalment of Stockhausen's *Licht* still to come, the Milan season may yet turn out one of the best in recent years.

Andrew Clark

Theatre

Tentative contacts

Real Estate
Tricycle

Louise Page's title gives you fair warning of an impending dramatic metaphor, and sure enough her play turns on questions of emotional investment and the need to keep relationships in good repair. It should have been prompted by Shaw's remark that nature demoralizes us with prolonged overdrifts and then ruins us with swift foreclosures.

Twenty years after running away from home, Jenny returns to the mother and stepfather to whom she has never sent so much as a postcard. Now she is pregnant, aged 38, and all set to abandon her London life to bring up her child in the country. Easier said than done, as her married lover is a Sunday Daddy of inflexible habits, and her own mother is now heavily (not to say conveniently) engaged in running an estate agency. Her only ally is the childless stepfather, who sees her arrival as his last chance of parental experience.

Everything locks together as neatly as a DIY wardrobe. Talk of abortion is accompanied by crushing chestnuts underfoot. Metropolitan sterility is contrasted with Ellen Cairns's fecund woodland setting, and the action runs from October to spring. Even the lover, totting up the emotional balance sheet, is an accountant.

This is the kind of thematically organized piece that Caryl Churchill used to write. You cannot deny that it is thoughtfully put together; but when so much care goes into design there is little scope for energetic invention or spontaneous characterization. Miss Page's prize-winning *Salome*, but she is clearly a talented writer who can rivet attention when she takes the brakes off, as in one ferocious mother-and-daughter battle where, for once, real estate becomes more than a shaky metaphor. But, for most of the way, her characters cannot even breathe without needing to prove something; and the effect is tentative and starved.

Pip Broughton's production is led by two exceptionally powerful actresses, Brenda Bruce and Charlotte Cornwell, who are obliged to hold themselves in reserve and



Charlotte Cornwell, Tony Guilfoyle

seldom make contact. On a less intense level, there is better contact between the men, Glyn Owen and Tony Guilfoyle, particularly when they get the women out of the house for an afternoon's cooking.

Irving Wardle

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Halka
Theatre Royal, Brighton

Apart from the odd performance of *The Haunted Manor*, England has been slow to take serious notice of the work of Poland's father of opera, Stanislaw Moniuszko. But this year's Brighton Festival, thanks to the imagination and flair of its new artistic director, Gavin Henderson, has handsomely redressed the balance.

The Warsaw Chamber Opera, major guests in this first week of Polish opera, mime and music-theatre, presented on Monday and will repeat tomorrow their new production of *Halka*. Although its success in Wilno in 1848 and 1874 led to considerable expansion three years later for Warsaw, it is the original two-act version, admired by

Glinka and closest to Moniuszko's heart, that is being staged here for the first time since its premiere.

The simple folk morality of the peasant girl wooed and deserted by the young nobleman, then driven to suicide by the pressures of a society ruled by divisions of class and race, has obvious thematic parallels with *La Muette de Portici* by Auber, whom Moniuszko championed. But in this terser version, with its national dance music contained within invigorating chorus, ensemble and orchestral writing, its arias and

robustly expressed, it is above all a sturdy Polish Verdi that we find ourselves experiencing.

Against the primitive unity of browns, reds and creams in Jan Pleskwa's masterly naïve designs, the iconic restraint of movement and gesture of Kasimierz Dejmeke's production plays out boldly both the

emotional intimacy of writing contemporary with *Traviata* and *Traviata* and the implicit nationalism of a work composed between the Peasants' Revolt of 1846 and the January Uprising of 1863. And it is above all a thoughtful, balanced and skilfully realized commitment to both the personal tragedy and the broader social significance of the work, from the superbly trained chorus and consistently strong cast of principals, that makes this company's advocacy so convincing.

The opera is double-cast: I heard Aleksandra Lemiszka as a vocally distinctive and most effective Halka, Alicja Slowikiewicz as a brilliant lyric Zofia, Jerzy Mahler as a resonant Janusz and Andrzej Forascka as the true lover Jontek. Ruben Silva conducted with enthusiasm and sensitivity.

Hilary Finch

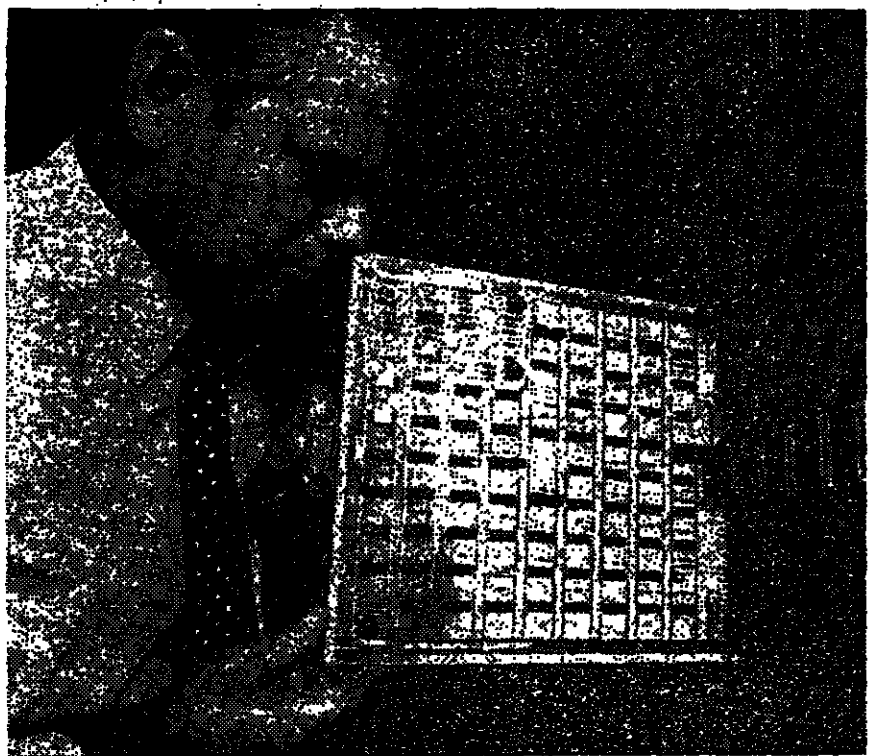
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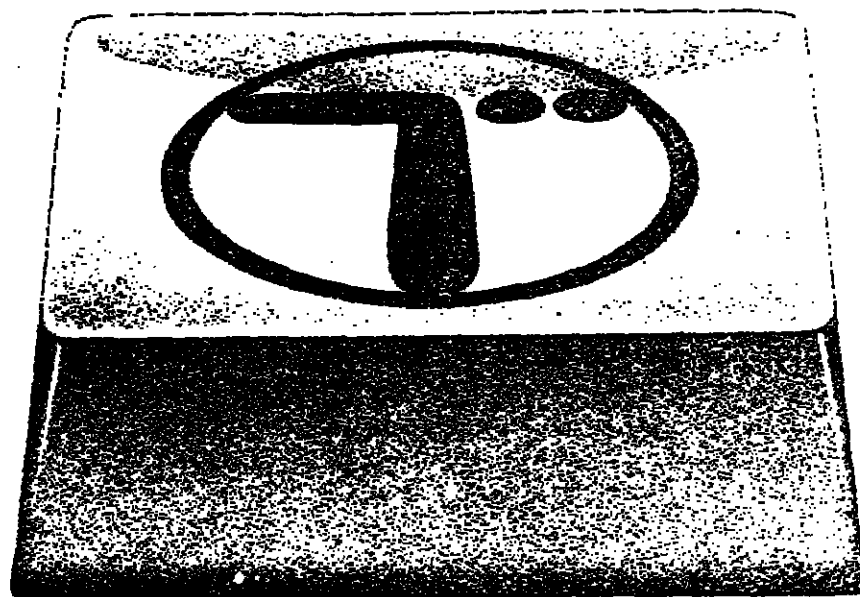


System X—digital flexibility.

A 'slice' of the modular microprocessor circuitry that enables System X—Britain's advanced new electronic telephone exchanges—to adapt, quickly and simply, both to customers' requirements and to technological progress.

Digital techniques pack more communications power into far less space. Equally at home in data, facsimile and video transmission as well as conventional speech, they open wide the door to the electronic office of the future.

System X means faster call connection, improved clarity and many new facilities for business and private customers.



Up she rises!

Coming ashore in Cornwall, British Telecom's newest transatlantic cable.

Carrying over 4000 simultaneous telephone calls, it provides the world's first full-colour digital transatlantic video conferencing service.

In Britain, 99.5% of all International calls are dialled direct.

Sadly, this facility is not always two-way. For example, you yourself can dial Dallas, Beverly Hills or Washington DC in the United States. But, customers in these populous places have to go through the operator for calls outside the US.

And-another first!

British Telecom has now launched SatStream North America—the world's first satellite-based, all-digital transmission service across the Atlantic.

This is beamed by another world first—a new compact dish aerial based on principles established by James Gregory, a 17th century Scottish mathematician.

The Gregorian design is three times as accurate as existing systems four times its size!

Healthy growth

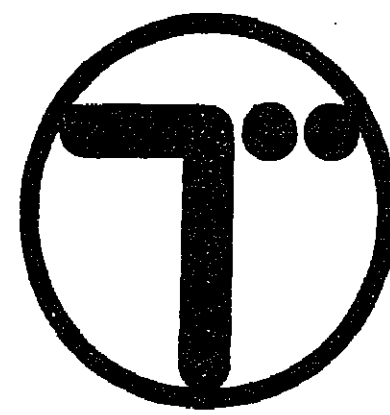
British Telecom, one of Britain's largest businesses:

- opens 5 modern exchanges every week.
- runs the World's 6th largest phone system.
- will soon install Britain's 20 millionth phone line.

It demands less maintenance, while sensitive built-in detectors swiftly pinpoint network faults.

In the next three years British Telecom plans 30 more System X trunk units and 1200 local exchanges.

A vast investment in efficiency, economy and progress for Britain.



British

TELECOM

The power behind the button.

SPECTRUM

Champions of the saints

This month the Pope left Rome to bestow sainthood on 100 Korean martyrs, the first time a pope has left Rome to make saints since 1369. Philip Mould explains the exhausting process that leads to canonization

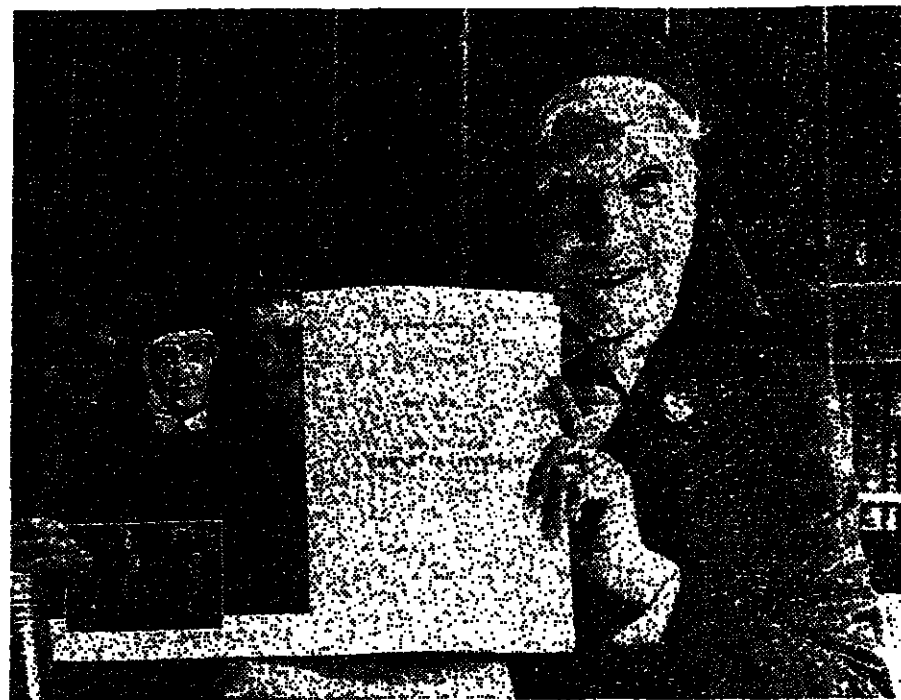
"Miracles", said Father Eugene Kennan with a sigh, "are always a problem." As a representative for at least three candidates for canonization Father Eugene is involved in arguably the most rigorous Roman Catholic exercise: to convince the Pope and his officials in the Palazzo Delle Congrazione that he has a man or woman worthy of sainthood.

In England there is an active cluster of such people, defined mostly as vice-postulators or collaborators who devote a large proportion of their lives to "launching" a candidate for canonization. The process is a cross between defending a complex court case and promoting a particularly contentious Act of Parliament. The investigation, description and ultimate presentation require a rare perseverance. There is an obsession based on Christian devotion and an unerring conviction in their candidate's eligibility for the greatest, albeit posthumous honour the church can bestow.

"Saint Makers" have to carry their candidates across three major hurdles in a process formalized by Pope Benedict XIV in the eighteenth century. The first stage is "Servus Dei" which means the candidate is in the running for canonization; the servant of God as he is known then has to become beatified (or called blessed) which is almost more difficult than the last part, which is canonisation. This takes the form of an enormous ceremony in Rome and the whole process of promotion - from ordinary deceased person to saint - can take several lifetimes work. The Vatican appoints a Devil's Advocate mercilessly to argue every reason for refusing to bestow the title and the postulator - translated literally meaning the one "who asks" - is cross-examined and the writings of his candidate studied with clinical impartiality. Rome avoids even the remotest possibility of making a mistake.

I had to book my meeting with Monsignor Stark a week and a half ahead. Having liaised with his house-keeper we chose a Tuesday evening and met at his small house on the outskirts of Wimbledon. Anthony Stark is vice-postulator for what he describes as the "largest canonization effort ever done": the cause of cardinal John Henry Newman, the nineteenth-century theologian who wrote the Apologia and is regarded by many to have paved the way for Vatican II. Newman's revered and eponymous status is not on its own sufficient to impress the panel of selectors in Rome.

Newman's champion lit his pipe and poured us two glasses of brandy, but we soon dispensed with our polite preamble as the fiercely practical side



Sister Ursula Blake with a picture of Mother Cornelia Connelly

of his nature emerged: "I can only give you half an hour, I hope you realize. I have a paper on Newman to finish tonight which is to be presented in Liverpool."

The length his drink lasted acted as our hour glass and I began to have uncomfortably vivid recollections of headmasters.

"Because of the enormous amount of work involved, nine other internationally accepted scholars are working on Newman at the moment and 10,000 separate studies have been made on him, which, apart from Shakespeare and Kant, is the most on any author."

He spoke with a stirring note of urgency and gave the impression of working under considerable pressure. There can be no doubt that to many academic Catholics Newman's canonization is of great significance and the job of vice-postulator can only be

Nine international scholars are working on Newman

carried by a man of scholarly expertise. As we left his book-filled study (most of them seemed to be on Newman), he gave me his embossed business card which describes him in bold script: Master of the Guild of Ransom, Vice Postulator to Cardinal Newman's cause.

At the Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, in St Leonards-on-sea a rather different representative has been working. Sister Ursula Blake, an elderly nun, has spent 10 years of her life involved in the cause of the foundress of her order, Mother Cornelia Connelly. She is collaborator to the postulator.

I visited her on St Patrick's Day and many of her fellow nuns were wearing shamrock on their habits. After Mass we had lunch in the guests' dining room and over her chicken salad she talked with a smile of calm certainty about her candidate: "Various of my class mistresses were taught by Cornelia at school", she said. "My mother was also instructed by the Holy Child

nuns. Through studying her life I feel that apart from my family I know her better than anyone else."

On the persuasion of her husband, Pierce, a well-off Episcopalian minister from Philadelphia who converted to Catholicism, Cornelia was forced to give up family life to found a convent. Pierce later regretted this and in a fit of melancholy madness brought a suit against Cornelia for restitution of his conjugal rights and kidnapped their children from her custody. Although Cornelia loved her husband dearly to the end, she built on, rather than wallowed in, her domestic anguish and achieved a remarkable programme of charity and education in the mid nineteenth century.

Sister Ursula picked up a red and sage-green folder carefully taped at the binding. It was part of her Positio and contained some of the arguments for her foundress's canonization. "I have 86 volumes like this", she said with an endearing matter-of-factness. Afterwards we walked around the convent receiving bright smiles from the nuns we passed.

In the passageway leading to the chapel was a portrait of Cornelia painted with unusual directness, possibly by a friend while in Rome in 1844. Her expression was curiously akin to Sister Ursula's and I asked her whether her foundress was guiding her: "I suppose the favourable response my Positio has received exceeds my expectations. In this way I feel that Cornelia has been helping me."

One of the greatest difficulties for those who represent causes would appear to be the proof of miracles. In most cases for non-martyred candidates, two, sometimes four, have to be proved either before beatification or afterwards. Monsignor Stark mentioned that he was working on one with the help of Lancashire Health Authority: confidentiality meant he could tell me no more. The unfortunate state of affairs is that miracles are becoming more and more difficult to prove. Lourdes, which can boast up to 65 fully substantiated examples in the last century, had no meetings of their International Medical Committee last year to consider further claims. With



Father Eugene Kennan beside a window showing the Blessed Dominic Barberi

increased knowledge miracles are drying up.

Father Eugene Kennan who represents three candidates, is poised waiting for one for the Blessed Dominic Barberi. An impressively large figure, Father Eugene works from Sutton Monastery in St Helens on the outskirts of Liverpool. Adjoining the cloisters is a large lawn with a brightly coloured altar: the grass is worn thin from numerous pilgrimages for as far as he knows his candidate is the only "blessed" in England. His voice had the matured richness one associates with the more invigorating type of church sermon.

"For Dominic it depends when the next miracle happens. I've claimed them but they've all been turned down on medical evidence."

Eugene is not alone in this problem. Sister Gregory of the Bar Convent is another of those involved in the foundress of her order. "We cannot get

Mary Ward to perform miracles", she told me on the telephone. "She has a great disinclination to do so and prefers those who need them to go to Heaven. We also have the added problem of having lost her body."

When Father James Walsh, a Jesuit priest from Clwyd, was active in the canonization of the 40 English Martyrs of the mid-sixteenth century he claimed 26 cases for miracles. They were all turned down except one: a miraculous cancer cure of a woman in Blackburn. When I put it to him that miracles are becoming hard to come by, he replied with jesuitical vigour: "You could say that having to go through these stringent tests sorts out the men from the boys. It's a pretty big claim one is making after all. What might happen is that miracles will change from the physical to the moral type: a hardened non-believer becoming converted could then be considered."

The saint-maker must never lose touch with the relevance of his candidate to present-day problems and having a little of the qualities of a salesman can help. Anthony Stark describes Newman as an "intellectual among intellectuals" and sees his future role as among other things: "The Intellectual Saint". Sister Ursula feels that because of Cornelia's background she is of help to broken families; Father Eugene was quick to point out that it was his Blessed Dominic who accepted Newman into the Church, but describes him primarily as "the Englishman's saint". Another of Eugene's candidates, Ignatius Spencer, assumed a different type of relevance at the time of the royal wedding - it was discovered that he was the Princess of Wales's ancestor. Father Eugene, written about at the time by London gossip columnists, described it as Ignatius's "least important claim to fame".

A silver stream is searching out man's goodness

Saints are a highly important part of Roman Catholic doctrine. As the Lumen Gentium states: "With the saints we are brought into the living presence of the one who is the fountainhead of the grace."

It is no wonder, therefore, that the Catholic church applies an assiduousness to the process which the Spanish Inquisition would have considered thorough. They have a duty to react to the Vox Populi, ie, the rank and file, which might explain the seemingly absurd appointment a vice-postulator for the cause of Princess Grace of Monaco last September; but it does not mean that just because the faithful want a canonization, their candidate deserves one.

The Anglican Church differs greatly in the store it holds by canonization. The high, rather than low, church recognizes the idea and the nearest it comes to a ceremony is publishing them in the Alternative Service Book calendar. Their emergence by public proclamation and saints, like Bishop Edward King, who died in 1914, and Nicholas Ferrar of Little Gidding, became so because it was the faithful around them rather than a geographically removed, independent body who decided on their validity. Canon Donald Allchin of Canterbury Cathedral feels that the Catholic process has become "elaborate and therefore expensive", and would like to see it decentralized. This has already begun with a paper document published in *L'Osservatore Romano* (The Vatican News-sheet) which gave more say to local bishops in February last year, but the frequent need for miracles and awesome demands for research and argument remain.

However, a justification for the rigours of saint-making does seem to come from an idea held by Sister Ursula. She spoke in a tone of soft conviction on how the evil in man is consuming everyone's time - in the law courts, in the media and in literature. "But in all this", she said, holding up the thumb and forefinger of her right hand to articulate a narrow gap: "A little silver stream is searching out man's goodness."

Jonathan Mirsky meets a Polish scholar in love with the Orient

The great call of China

Witold Rodzinski, the Polish-born son of a celebrated symphony orchestra conductor, has emerged from that unlikely background as a leading expert on China. Born in 1918, Witold Rodzinski was taken as a boy of eight to the United States where his father, the celebrated Artur Rodzinski, was building his career conducting the Philadelphia, Cleveland, New York and Chicago symphony orchestras.

Young Witold graduated from Columbia and spent the war as a captain in the American air force. "I was an American, but I was also a Pole. I liked what was going on there in 1948. So I went back."

Tall, lean, patrician, in English country-gentleman tweeds and speaking perfect American, Rodzinski looks back at the following 20 years in Poland with dry irony: a life which included a doctorate in public service, culminating in ambassadorships to the Court of St James and Peking during the first two years of the Cultural Revolution.

He retired in 1969. "I decided to get away from everything connected with government and politics." He stays well away, brushing aside questions about Soviet relations with China or current Chinese affairs: "I'm sorry, I simply don't have enough information."

But he has plenty of information about China over the long haul. "I was bitten by the China bug very early - the fascination never goes away." After a prodigious two-volume survey, he has just finished his concise history of China's last 4,000 years.

Like Conrad, Rodzinski writes in English - and translates his own work into Polish for local publication. He insists he is a Marxist and bridges, politely but firmly, at the suggestion that his newest book



Rodzinski: 'I am a non-party Marxist'

would go down well in any uncommitted western curriculum.

"I try to write old fashioned narrative history - it's what I like to read. But look here, I am a Marxist; non-party, but a Marxist. I emphasize class structure and the aggression of imperialism. But I am fair. I included Russian, Tsarist Russia, among the imperialists."

A feature of his old-fashioned narrative is the role of the individual. Is this good Marxism?

"I claim a complete incapacity to deal with the problem of the great individual in history. No one, including Marxists, have solved this." Elegantly, Rodzinski coils and uncoils his legs. In Poland, he observes, he has virtually no colleagues. "Chinese studies barely exist." One of the

pleasures, therefore, of Chinese history is the international discourse. He has spent two visiting fellowships at Clare College, Cambridge, and is just off for a short spell at King's, to learn more about China.

The problem of great individuals must lead him to considerations of human will, rather than economic forces. Is there a conflict here with Marxism? "It would do Marxists no harm to think of this problem more."

So how, then, does Warsaw's ex-ambassador to Peking evaluate Mao Zedong? On this matter, Rodzinski follows the present Chinese line; the late Chairman's great achievements ended in the late 1950s; after that there were "errors and catastrophes". He smooths his perfect trousers. "A leading statesman should know when he has come to the end of his term."

Rodzinski is reluctant to make a personal judgment of Mao's successes and failures. "Only the Chinese leadership has all the data. It's a balance sheet only they can draw."

"I resist generalizations, especially about China. Here's a story: you may think it's silly. In 1957 I was in a village in Sichuan, in west China. A barber was shaving a man of about 40. That man was wearing a queue - the pigtail the Manchus made the Chinese wear until the revolution of 1911. After that, queues were forbidden. But there, 40 years later, a young man was wearing one. I said to myself, my God, from now on I must be modest about Chinese absolutes."

Jonathan Mirsky

"The Walled Kingdom: A History Of China From 2,000 BC To The Present is published by Flamingo (Fontana) £3.95.

The weather is turning cloudy and chilly, a sure sign that summer is on the way at last. And that means it's time to get out all those things you'll be needing in the garden this summer!

It doesn't matter where you keep them - in the garage under the stairs, in that shed with the missing key - as long as you make sure that every single thing you need for the summer is there from last year. So use this handy checklist and tick off each item as you get it out.

One nearly complete barbecue kit.

A garden hose with four kinks in it, one fatal.

A kit for smoking your own food such as fish, plus one of last year's fish.

A deck chair which, when you sit in it, allows your bottom to touch the ground.

A croquet set containing more balls than mallets and more mallets than hoops.

A jar of something meant to speed up compost heaps, which seems to have leaked.

One Chinese kite assembly kit, which, when assembled, flies along the ground.

A pack of raspberry canes, which, when assembled, fall over.

Half a pair of garden shears, kept on the assumption that there must be a use for a shear.

A foot pump.

One still.

A lawn mower still awaiting its winter maintenance.

A net for playing deck tennis, badminton, or some similar game, carefully rolled up in such a way that it can never be unrolled again.

Not fewer than five table tennis balls, four with dents in more balls than mallets and more mallets than hoops.

A complete set of instructions for the erection of a piece of garden furniture which has totally vanished.

A game involving a ball which you hit as hard as possible, and which comes back at you immediately except that the rubber has gone.

A rake with as many gaps as teeth.

One unicycle, or rather half a bicycle.

A coil of rope with no beginning or end.

A flag belonging to no known country.

One home-made device for removing boots from feet, also capable of removing heels from boots.

One single oar, one single rowlock, but no visible boat.

A racket for playing badminton, with an aperture in the racket to let the shuttlecock through.

A gym shoe which has been colonized by the insect world.

A pair of rubber swimming flippers one with the heel perished.

Several copies of Reader's Digest from the late 1950s.

A quantity of old clothing which you put aside for Oxford last year.

A quantity of green nylon netting left in such a way that when you pull at it, all the other objects listed above will come out as well.

moreover... Miles Kington

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CONCISE CROSSWORD No (337)

- ACROSS
1 Indian tent (6)
4 Quietly (6)
7 Den (4)
8 Middy (8)
9 French policeman (8)
13 Catch (3)
16 In considered relationship (2,11)
17 Catching game (3)
19 Green fodder process (8)
24 Self-righteous person (8)
25 Bank robber (4)
26 Limp (6)
27 Shudder (6)

- DOWN
1 Raving (4)
2 Trialist (6,3)
3 Unexpected refreshment (5)
4 Violent gale (5)
5 Matches (4)
6 Bar dance (5)
10 Mourning song (5)
11 Ties (5)

- 12 Surpass (5)
13 Polyphasic food wrapping (5)
14 Weigh heavily (4)
15 Lean (4)

- 18 Detest (5)
20 Harid (5)
21 Clumsy (5)
22 Threesome (4)
23 Bridge group (4)

- SOLUTION TO No 336
ACROSS: 1 Cherub 5 Lope 8 Arrow 9 Ordinal 11 Lemonade 13 Doom 15 Schizophrenia 17 Isle 18 Acquaint 21 Sponger 22 Flood 23 Alkin 24 Martyr 25 Bank robber 26 Limp 27 Shudder

- DOWN: 1 Raving 2 Trialist 3 Unexpected refreshment 4 Violent gale 5 Matches 6 Bar dance 10 Mourning song 11 Ties

- 12 Surpass 13 Polyphasic food wrapping 14 Weigh heavily 15 Lean 18 Detest 20 Harid 21 Clumsy 22 Threesome 23 Bridge group

- 16 In considered relationship 17 Catching game 19 Green fodder process 24 Self-righteous person 25 Bank robber 26 Limp 27 Shudder

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- 16 In considered relationship 17 Catching game 19 Green fodder process 24 Self-righteous person 25 Bank robber 26 Limp 27 Shudder

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IS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

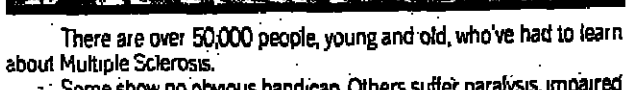


at the boys as children. Even right to adulthood"

The big match. My opponent is a very well upholstered fellow from a reinsurance company. Although he is only a minor executive, he is a major luncher.

Leave the fruit to marinate for an hour or two (not more than three), turning it from time to time.

Thread alternate chunks of pineapple and banana on to skewers and cook them quickly over charcoal until the fruit is hot in the middle and beginning to brown on the outside. Baste the kebabs with the marinade at least once. Serve them very hot.



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☐ Please send me the Society's leaflet on making covenants or bequests.

☐ Please debit my Access Card / Barclaycard (delete as applicable the sum of £ _____ Card No _____)

Cardholder's Signature _____

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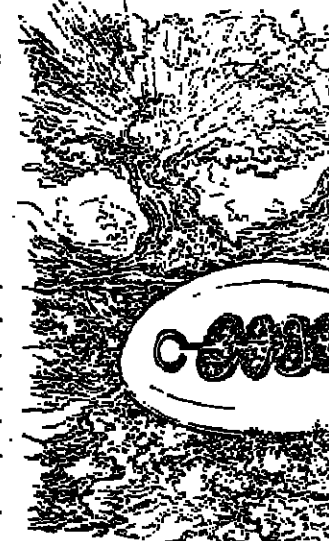
Name _____

Address _____

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T/C/3



A SPECIAL REPORT

The film industry

Two days before the world's film makers gather at Cannes, we examine the future for the industry, particularly in Britain

There is nothing like a win at the Oscar ceremony to concentrate attention on the British film industry, and, conversely, nothing like a dismal showing to send the concerned scurrying elsewhere for matters of interest.

When *Chariots of Fire*, out of the blue, stole the limelight of the 1983 Oscar awards, Britain finally woke up to the idea that it could once again have a thriving domestic film industry, dependent, to an extent, on the huge American cinema market, but not in thrall to it, artistically or financially.

The success of Sir Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi* made Colin Welland's heady comments after the win of *Chariots of Fire* seem a little less hyperbolic that they once appeared. The British, it appeared, were coming.

If there is one great cause for regret in this year's results it stems not from the absence of a new paperweight on some British producer's mantelpiece, but from the lack of attention which the industry itself has consequently received.

Chariots of Fire and *Gandhi* focused public interest on the attitudes of the state and the City towards the making of cinema films. Had another success this year revived that attention, it would have uncovered the fact that the

domestic industry faces one of the most critical junctures of its chequered history.

Two matters, both concerning the Government's relations with film-makers, worry the business more than anything else at the moment. The first, and probably the most serious, concerns the Chancellor's decision, in the last budget, to phase out capital allowances.

British cinema companies are particularly aggrieved about this: only last year they were told by the Inland Revenue that capital allowances would apply to film stocks until at least 1987. The effect of the decision is to erode, and finally remove, an advantageous tax clause which has persuaded many investors to chance their arm at backing films at a time when, without the allowances, they might have chosen to support more conventional projects.

Sharing the fund

The allowances were first applied to film in 1979 and enabled financiers to write off their losses on a cinema investment in the first year.

They came about at a time when the makers of American blockbusters in Britain, such as the *Star Wars* series, and (for all its apparent Britishness) the *Bond* films found their income

reduced by a change in the shareout of the Eady Fund, the levy on cinema admissions which, in part, is returned to the producers of films made in Britain.

An Eady shareout based on a simple ratio of tickets sold had virtually created the *Bond* series, and was a substantial carrot to those companies which followed in its footsteps. When the maximum payment from Eady was limited to £500,000, the makers of blockbusters saw a fall in their return which, to some extent, capital allowances replaced.

Eady itself is now threatened by the second factor worrying British film-makers, the industry review being pursued by the Technology Minister, Kenneth Baker. Will the makers of the blockbusters remain in Britain if they lose both? That remains to be seen.

Italy is mentioned by many as a country with advanced production facilities and favourable tax arrangements. And if it is a question of using the undeniable expertise of British film technicians, then there is no obstacle to flying them in for the duration of filming.

The timescale involved in such deliberations will leave the Rank Organisation, which owns Pinewood where the *Superman* series and the *Bond* films are shot, and Thorn-EMI, the



Action station: the British director David Lean in Srinagar for *A Passage to India*

owners of Elstree, with some nervous nights for some time to come.

The loss of allowances will not affect films already in production; the Salkinds, who are behind the *Superman* series, intend to proceed with their new \$50m production of *Santa Claus* at Pinewood as planned. The blockbusters due to go into production in 1986 are the ones which will be the first to come under closer scrutiny.

For those companies who continue to make successful films after allowances disappear there exists the carrot of new, more favourable corporation tax rates. But it is difficult to predict whether this will be sufficient to maintain film investment at its present scale.

Cinema is a volatile business with no guaranteed returns. Most producers accepted that the allowance would be phased out eventually, but not until 1987, by which time, they hoped, the industry would be sufficiently established to stand on its own feet.

The irony of '84

Mr Baker faces an uncomfortable conundrum. In his time as minister responsible for cinema at the Department of Trade and Industry he has impressed many film-makers with his commitment to the idea that a healthy British cinema industry is a good idea. Unfortunately, he often quoted the existence of capital allowances as evidence of the Government's commitment.

Even before the budget he was planning to end Eady and

send the National Film Finance Corporation out into the commercial world to find backing for what, at the moment, is the extraordinarily uncommercial business of giving new film-makers an entry into the industry.

With capital allowances, he might have introduced such moves without too much criticism.

It is a conflict which will probably go over the heads of those queuing for cinema seats. Fortunately for the film business, the customer is still there. Marplan estimates that 1983 had a total of 66 million cinema admissions, only one point higher than that of 1982, one of the most disastrous years in British cinema-going history. But those who turned up were willing to pay more for the pleasure of doing so, and, for the first time since 1980, cinema advertising started to show an increase.

In London, Romaine Hart, the owner of the Screen on the Green and the Screen on the Hill, has put a rosy glow into the cheeks of every cinema fan by reopening two previously closed cinemas in Portobello Road and Baker Street to her own blend of independent repertoire and in-house style.

Perhaps her experience sums up the irony facing the film business in Britain in 1984. The country may have plenty of people who want to see good films in pleasant cinemas, but it is still searching for a stable production industry capable of meeting their needs.

David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Current triumphs and the ones you'll see soon

David Shipman looks at past hits and coming attractions

Will Clayburgh) defending a Palestinian who may be a terrorist.

For sheer entertainment, in the old-fashioned sense, there has been little lately to equal *Heat and Dust* - James Ivory's finest film since *Shakespeare Wallah*. As drama, too schematic, but it satisfies our romantic notions about the Raj while offering new information on modern India.

It is a movie of beautiful images, of a world foreign to most of us and so is *Un Amour de Swann* (Swann in Love). If it were necessary to film Proust at all, it was probably best done this way - to isolate one of them, in this case the obsession of Swann (Jeremy Irons) with the courtesan Odette (Ornella Muti).

Volker Schlöndorff conveys the passion in appropriately sensual images. Among foreign-language movies Shohet Imamura lacks his usual precision in his depiction of primitive people in rural Japan a century ago in *The Ballad of Narayama*, and it is a pity, since he is a great filmmaker whose work is too little known; but his last, long 30-minute sequence is one of the most haunting in the history of cinema. And, speaking of great film-makers, that brings us back to *Fanny and Alexander*, which took a while to find, in Britain at least, the public it deserved.

Certainly the film is introspective as it examines the prudish, puritan streak of the Swedish character, and it must be admitted that Bergman has never before showed such warmth or exuberance as in his portrayal of the other side and of the foreign (or Jewish) influence on it in what he calls his last film.

I do not think the return of David Lean makes up for the loss of full-scale Bergman, but his version of E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India* is to a film buff, despite his last over-blown efforts, the most exciting film under way at the moment.

Another veteran, John Huston, has taken on the no less daunting task of filming Malcolm Lowry's *Under the Volcano*, on location in Mexico with Albert Finney; while also in Mexico another British director returns to work for the large screen - John Schlesinger with an espionage drama, *The*

Falcon and the Snowman, starring Sean Penn and Timothy Hutton. And on location in Munich, Greece and Israel, George Roy Hill has been shooting John Le Carré's *The Little Drummer Girl*, with Diane Keaton in the title role.

Elsewhere, Sidney Lumet is making a comedy tantalisingly titled *Garbo Talks* (did they have to ask permission?), while Peter Weir is directing Harrison Ford in *Witness*, Woody Allen's *Broadway Danny Rose*, in which he plays an actor's agent, has opened successfully in the US, and he is now making *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, in which he does not appear.

Ermano Olmi, off form with his last film, *Cammina Cammina*, is finishing one that translates as *Young Boy*; and Marco Bellochio, off form with his last two movies, may well be at home with an adaptation of Pirandello's *Enrico IV*, with Marcello Mastroianni in the title role.

Mastroianni is also appearing in a new version of another Pirandello story, *The Late Mattheus Pascal*. Hollywood, unshaken by the flop of virtually all remakes in recent years, is still at it. We've yet to see Dudley Moore in *Unfaithfully Yours* or Jeff Bridges in *Against All Odds*, which was *Out of the Past/Build My Gallows High* in its previous movie manifestation.

Star vehicles that never take off

Stars are hardly at a premium - which is why so many are making television films and they are no longer box-office insurance: Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds, smarting from several flops between them, are teaming up to make *City Heat* with Richard Benjamin in charge. He took over when there were "artistic differences" with Blake Edwards, who was to have directed his own screenplay, and it is probably only coincidence that Edwards was responsible for one of Reynolds' biggest failures, *The Man Who Loved Women*.

A pity about that, for in today's cinema a comedy with Reynolds and Julie Andrews sound very attractive - almost as much so as one co-starring Ted Danson and Shelley Long, of Channel 4's *Cheers*. And that is what I shall still be watching if none of these projects turns out as promised.

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The top producers and their backing

Britain's expanding film industry has been sustaining itself on the elation resulting from a few international successes and hope. As the new and renaissance film finance outfits expand their activity in feature production, the time is nigh when the "revival" will seriously have to test its calculations against box office performance.

First, an indication of current activity. Twenty nine British-financed films were made in the year to the end of last March, compared with about 20 in the previous 12 months and at least 25 more films are to start later this year. I have excluded pictures made in Britain but financed wholly by US companies.

The most active film financier has been Goldcrest Films, its capital base of around £25m from the Pearson group and



Old warriors: James Mason, intrigued by animal-rights campaigner John Gielgud's anti-hunting pamphlet questions him in *The Shooting Party*

distribution and international sales operations. Various producers have been successful in securing funds from financial institutions traditionally wary of film production, to set up production-financing entities with names such as Acorn, Britannic and Geoff Reeve Films. United Media Ltd, like the others financed by various institutional investors, is a production fund which finances a portfolio of film and TV projects from producers.

In television, Channel Four's role in reviving low-budget feature production is already well-documented. The main commercial companies, particularly Central TV, are also interested in backing theatrical features. BBC TV has pre-bought various films and is discussing plans to set up a feature film-making subsidiary. All the established television companies are motivated by the desire to build up a catalogue of films for sale to the new media, particularly cable and satellite television.

James Park

institutional investors is shortly to be increased to between £30m and £35m. The company reported a profit of £892,000 before tax and interest payments for 1983, earned on revenue of £12,402,000 largely from *Gaudy*. The company has five films for release this year. Handmade Films has been around as long as Goldcrest and scored a major success early on with Terry Gilliam's *Time Bandits*. After a quiet 1983 when the company rolled *Bullshot*, Handmade is committed to make between three and five pictures annually.

Among media-related companies with film making offshoots the busiest is Virgin Films. The long-established major film corporations, Thorn EMI and Rank Films, have reacted cautiously to the creative revival of British filmmaking. Thorn EMI's production division, supervised by the former television executive Verity Lambert, has initiated a handful of new features. Rank Film Distributors has for some years been topping up the budgets of films initiated elsewhere to secure product for its U.K.

How viewers have changed places

Four or five decades ago it would have been pointless to pose the question, where do people go to see their films? They went to their local cinema in their drives, often in a highly patterned way and usually more than once a week. That looking-glass into fantasy was slowly eroded as fewer and fewer people went to the cinema, and fewer films were made. It is not, however, that the audience for films disappeared, nor, so far as we know, that the web of emotional and cultural needs served by films changed. The audience simply went home.

The bare statistics of cinema attendance are stark. The number of admissions to cinemas each year has dropped drastically.

Parallel to this has been an equal and obvious decline in the number of cinemas. In 1951 there were 4,581, in 1970 1,529 and in 1982 802. The last figure is now probably even lower, particularly in the light of the Rank Organization's recent decision to cut its losses, sell off many of its suburban and provincial cinemas.

There are some interesting

ATTENDANCES

Year	(millions)
1939	990
1945	1635
1950	1396
1955	1182
1960	515
1965	327
1970	193
1975	116
1980	102
1981	86
1982	60
1983 (up to Oct)	57

THE VIDEO PICTURE

Per cent	Type of Feature
18	classics/thriller
14	comedy
2	western
26	horror
9	general features
7	adult
6	children
5	science fiction
4	war
3	music
6	others

experiments in keeping cinema-going alive and in broadening the kinds of films which people can go and see. One such is a joint British Film Institute and Rank effort aimed at providing an opening for films such as *Divya* and *The Marriage of Maria Braun* - films which otherwise might not be made available on the major circuits. Barry Edson of the BFI, who has been closely involved in this, says: "More and more the lowest common denominator must apply for film booking. Therefore, what we were trying to show is that there is a variable but significant audience throughout the country of people prepared to pay for a wider variety of films in cinemas."

in the way in which films are exhibited has followed in the wake of the increasing use of VCRs. According to the British Videogram Association (the industry's trade association), at the end of 1983, 26 per cent of homes in Britain had VCRs, equivalent to about 5.2 million machines. They now put the figure at 29 per cent (5.8 million machines) and I have seen projections ranging between 50 and 65 per cent for the end of next year. There is something like 15,000 retail outlets specializing in video and another 10,000 outlets with video as a sideline all providing a wide variety of feature films.

Other surveys show that about 70 per cent of all programmes recorded off-air, rather than obtained from the

local video retailer, are feature films. In short, there is overwhelming evidence of a considerable appetite for feature films, but an appetite which is being satisfied at home.

As for the future, the exhibition of films, will probably be dominated by cable and satellite delivered services. The Entertainment Network (TEN) and The Entertainment Group (TEG) are already jockeying for position to dominate that home market for films.

Any future policy on film exhibition will, therefore, have to be a policy about film rather than just the cinema, allowing for the dominance of film on television, cable, satellite, videocassette and video disc. It will also need to allow for the fact that it is not really plausible to have a successful domestic exhibition policy if no allowance is made for the needs of domestic film producers. If that connection between production and exhibition is not made not only will we have lost an important part of public culture, we will have debased the value of the private culture with which it has been replaced.

Dr Michael Tracey
Head, Broadcasting Research Unit

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

The leading companies actively involved in financing feature films, with details of their major projects

No of films on chart	Backers	Recent productions	Budget areas	Producing co - other finance
Acorn Pictures (2)	Insurance cos, Pearson funds, ICFP	<i>Not Quite Jerusalem</i> ('84)	h	Acorn - Rank Film Distributors
Britannic Films (3)	Fleet Holdings, ICFP	<i>Squaring The Circle</i> ('83) <i>Turtle Diary</i> ('84) <i>Lady Jane</i> ('84)	m m h	TVS-Metromedia (US) United British Artists Britannic - Paramount
British Film Institute (3)	Office of Arts and Libraries, ITCA cos, Channel Four	<i>Ford's On Water</i> ('82) <i>Flight To Berlin</i> ('83) <i>1919</i> ('84)	h h h	BFI - Road Movies (Munich), Channel 4
Central Productions (2)	Central TV	<i>The Hit</i> ('83) <i>Spooks</i> ('84)	m m	Central - Recorded Picture Co/Glenwood Films
Channel Four TV (8)	ITCA cos	<i>The Country Girls</i> ('83) <i>Reflections</i> ('83) <i>Laughinghouse</i> ('84) <i>Wetherby</i> ('84) <i>Chain</i> ('84)	h h h h h	London Films Court House Films Greenpoint-Peacock Pictures Quintet Films
Goldcrest Films & TV (8)	Pearson Group, investment trusts, insurance cos	<i>The Killing Fields</i> ('83) <i>Cal</i> ('83) <i>Dread One</i> ('83) <i>The Dresser</i> ('83) <i>Another Country</i> ('83) Also: Film comedy series 1 ('84-)	h m m m m m	Enigma Prod.-Warner Bros (US) Goldcrest-NEF (France), Columbia Pic. Dresser - Films-Columbia Pics. World Film Services Castles-NFFC, Orion Classics Goldcrest - Sam Goldwyn Film Co. (U.S.)
Handmade Films (4)	George Harrison and others	<i>Bullshot</i> ('83) <i>A Private Function</i> ('84) <i>Weiler</i> ('84) <i>The Travelling Man</i> ('84)	m m h m	
ITC Entertainment (1)	ACC (The Bell Group)	<i>The Company of Wolves</i> ('84)	m	Palace Pictures
Moving Picture Co (3)	Carton Group	<i>Bones</i> ('84) <i>The Assassin</i> ('84) <i>Slagger</i> ('84)	m m h	
National Film Finance Corp (7)	Eady Levy	<i>Loose Connections</i> ('83) <i>Secret Places</i> ('83) <i>Dance With A Stranger</i> ('84) <i>Talpuddle</i> ('84)	h h m m	Umbrella-Greenpoint - Virgin Skrahe-Virgin - Rank, Rediffusion First Film Co - Channel 4, Goldcrest Merchant Ivory - Channel 4, Rank
Palace Pictures (2)	Nik Powell Insurance Co	<i>Chinese Boxes</i> ('84)	h	Road Movies
Rank Film Distributors (6)	Rank Group	<i>The Bostonians</i> ('83) <i>The Decalvers</i> ('84)	m m	Merchant Ivory - Rediffusion Merchant Ivory - Michael White
Geoff Reeve Films (1)	Cayzer Ltd (Commonwealth & Ship-ping)	<i>The Shooting Party</i> ('83)	m	Reeve - BBC TV
Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment (5)	Thorn EMI Group	<i>Slayground</i> ('83) <i>Comfort And Joy</i> ('83) <i>A Passage To India</i> ('84) <i>Morons From Outer Space</i> ('84) <i>Dreamchild</i> ('84)	m m h m m	*Universal Pictures (US) Film & General - Kings Road Productions/Universal (US) Columbia/Home Box Office (US) *Universal (US)
United Media Ltd	Insurance cos, Branch Securities	<i>The Inside Man</i> ('83)	m	Producers Associates - Swedish sources
Videofarm	Heron Group	<i>Number One</i> ('84)	h	Mark Forster Productions
Virgin Films (10)	Virgin Records	<i>Electric Dreams</i> ('83) <i>1984</i> ('84) <i>Absolute Beginners</i> ('84) <i>Hooverville</i> ('84) <i>The Camant Garden</i> ('84) <i>Mystery Story</i> ('84) <i>The Lester</i> ('84)	h h h h h h h	Virgin-MGM/UA (US) Goldcrest
VTC			2084	

* Budget areas are generally estimates: l = under \$1,500,000, m = \$1,500,000 - \$5,000,000, h = \$5,000,000 plus * Thorn EMI

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THE TIMES DIARY

Billy's new boyo

Cliff Richard, certainly, Mrs Roy Castle, probably, but Lord Tony-pandy, shaking a tambourine and clapping his hands for Jesus? The former Speaker, stalwart of dour Welsh valley Methodism, has accepted the honorary chairmanship of Billy Graham's front organization Mission England, which kicks off its three-month tour at Bristol's Ashton Gate football stadium on Saturday. An admirer for 20 years, Lord Tony-pandy tells me Graham's faith "is as solid as the rock of Gibraltar." Mission England publicists at Alan Wagstaff, hired to do for Graham what Saatchi and Saatchi are doing for rival evangelist Lady Diana, besides themselves with the catch. They tell me Lord Tony-pandy, former vice-president of the Methodist conference, will appear alongside Cliff Richard and Fiona Castle to be shown with Roy, children and all, on posters that craftily avoid reference to God. The company, me accustomed to marketing Makintosh sweets and Goodyear tyre-tells me: "For many people the word God and Jesus Christ are turn-... Perhaps they should tell that to Billy Graham."

● The Consumers' Association is feeling specially smug. The local government ombudsman, David Yardley, is just written asking for a copy of its book *How To Complain*.

Labour of love

Virginia Bonley, who took her seat in the Commons yesterday as MP for Surrey South West, has not always been a Tory true blue. A source with a dangerously long memory tells me that before the 1967 GLC election, Virginia - then an impressionable year-old - was to be seen tramping the streets of Wandsworth stuffed with leaflets through letterboxes. Yesterday Mrs Bonley defended action in the name of family loyalty. Labour candidate, her aunt Peggy Jay, socialist veteran and former wife of Labour minister Douglas Jay. Mrs Jay, mother of Peter and now an SDP stalwart, recalls her niece "storming up and down tower blocks - a bit of a fire." She still lost.

Lap of the god

During rehearsals for *Phantom of the Opera*, which opens the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, tonight, the cast noticed the theatre's great rock-crystal chandelier. King: two days ago it shed one of its pieces. Now the management reduced the price of the five se direct beneath it, from £5 to 50p.

● Best scriptwriter contended Gordon Thorburn has been nominated for his film *Renal Failure*. Awareness in Friday's *Bisla* awards - the British industrial film and video Oscars. With a title like that, he deserves one.

Tat-free

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, is prepared to sell anything for Mrs Thatcher - even his old cricket boots. To raise funds for the Conservative Party he has bundled a mass of his personal belongings into 200 lots and auctioned them off in the garden of his home at Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire. The star attraction, in what by all accounts could fairly be described as junk, was his skis - "a belated recognition that I won't be going skiing any more."

BARRY FANTONI



"But will it stem the flood of support to save the GLC?"

They also serve

Foreigners who eagerly buy their way into the homes of the British aristocracy will be alarmed to hear that one host, Baron Hercules Robinson, has just put his Scottish seat Culcreuch Castle on the market. The Stirlingshire castle - seat of Clan Galbraith from 1320 to 1630 - has seen an odd mix of paying guests, from David Bowie and Madame Giscard d'Estaing to former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiari and - perhaps the most memorable - a group of Tennessee bankers. They had expressed great delight at the prospect of being waited on by a baron and a butler. But then the butler and, after failing to recruit one, Baron Hercules turned in desperation to a friend, an 82-year-old Scottish general, whose name he refuses to disclose. "He did splendidly, until after dinner, when he drew up his seat for a glass of port. The Americans thought that was real democracy." On another occasion, a family of Scots parked themselves on Culcreuch's lawns for a picnic. So incensed was the Baron that he packed up his own picnic, tailed them back to their seat in Milngavie, Glasgow, and spread out his rug in their front garden. PHS

John Carlin on the daunting challenge facing the new president of El Salvador

Poll victory for Duarte, but the real battle has yet to begin

San Salvador. Napoleon Duarte has won the presidential election in El Salvador. Now he must win power.

The outgoing president, Alvaro Magana, from whom Duarte takes over on June 1, has been little more than an official spokesman for the armed forces and the United States government in the past two years. From 1980 to 1982, when Duarte himself was president, as head of a junta, he was, by his own admission, more a dispenser of advice than a decision-maker.

If Duarte, a Social Democrat, again fails to impose himself as president, democracy will have failed in El Salvador. The guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) will have been proved right - the elections were "a farce" - and any notion of the four-and-a-half-year civil war being ended by negotiation will have dissolved.

The conviction is universal that the Salvadoran army cannot defeat the guerrillas single-handed. More US weapons, more US training, have failed to check a steady increase in guerrilla strength. The guerrillas - who number about 10,000 compared with the armed forces' 40,000 combatants - have shown themselves capable of inflicting heavy casualties while suffering few themselves. They can sustain successful offensives on various fronts at once and they can hold substantial parts of the north and east of the country; but, as the habitually defensive army always insists, the FMLN has not been able to capture even one of El Salvador's 14 provincial capitals.

However, there appears to be unanimous agreement, both in El Salvador and the United States - and not least among the FMLN leadership - that the first suggestion of a still elusive "victorious final" by the guerrillas, American troops will intervene.

"If the US says 'We want to send troops', my answer would be 'no'," Duarte said in a recent interview with *The Times*. "The day he says 'yes' - one of his closest advisers adds, 'will be the day he is forced to admit that his 20-year quest to secure power in El Salvador has failed."

That quest began in 1948 when he returned from a postgraduate university in the United States, married and promptly entered his

father-in-law's business. Revealing his astute politician's eye for the main chance, he rapidly persuaded his father-in-law Don Jose Maria Duran to make him a partner. During his 16 years in Duran-Duarte, as the company became known, Duarte became a respected and prosperous civil engineer, responsible for the construction of the central bank, among other well-known landmarks in the capital.

On November 26, 1960, El Salvador's Christian Democrat Party was formed, with Duarte as a founder member. While most of the other incipient Christian Democrats put much energy into laying firm ideological foundations for the new party, Duarte immediately identified himself as the professional politician of the bunch, the party organizer, the bombastic public speaker, the ambitious climber, the power-seeker. While his colleagues set about getting into line with the Christian Democrat movements in Europe, Duarte engineered himself into position as *de facto* head of the party by running for and winning the mayorship of San Salvador in 1964. He was elected for three consecutive terms and remained mayor until 1970.

He embarked on a whole series of previously unheard of social welfare programmes; he brought street lighting to virtually every corner of the city and, as a consequence, in all five national elections since 1972, the Christian Democrat Party has always won a bigger majority in San Salvador than anywhere else in the country.

Before the 1972 presidential election there was an excited belief that Duarte's UNO coalition would break the military's 40-year grip on power.

First returns gave the UNO an overwhelming lead in the capital and 54 per cent of the vote in the rest of the country. The day after the vote there was a mysterious radio black-out followed by an announcement by the electoral commission that Colonel Arturo Molina of the National Conciliation Party had won by 9,844 votes, a 1.3 per cent lead. No one doubted that the votes had been shamefully rigged.

There was an attempted military coup on March 25 in protest. Duarte went on the radio supporting the rebellion, which was soon crushed, leaving 100 dead. The army dragged Duarte out of the Venezuelan

embassy, where he had sought asylum. He was tortured, his cheekbones were cracked with rifle butts and the tips of his three-middle fingers of his left hand were chopped off. After release he fled to Venezuela, where he lived for seven years.

In March 1980, Duarte joined what became known as the Third Junta. Days later Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated in a climate of political violence not seen in El Salvador for several decades. Nine months later, Duarte accepted the presidency of the junta.

"Jose Napoleon Duarte was once tortured by the same thugs who now guarantee his power," wrote Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes at the time. But Duarte insists that he was a man more sinned against than sinning, that his presence in the government kept alive democracy's flickering hopes, kept at bay what he calls the totalitarianism of the left and tyranny of the right, and paved the way for the present round of presidential elections.

Duarte has a plan, a "thesis of government," as his supporters say. It consists of creating the conditions for the left to participate politically. In other words, to make it senseless, anachronistic, for the FMLN to persist with armed revolution. The task then, is to defuse, not defeat, the guerrillas.

Rhetorical invitations to the FMLN by the US government and the Salvadoran armed forces to take part in the elections were met with due scorn.

The awesome challenge to the new president, is to eliminate what he calls "the death squads of Major D'Aubuisson and his fascist associates" and the "institutionalized repression of the traditionally praetorian armed forces."

A thin line separates resentment and rebellion. Duarte's supporters, and the guerrillas, the FMLN leadership is composed in large part of disenchanted members of the Christian Democrat Youth. If the new president fails to implement agrarian reforms, if he fails to improve workers' wages and conditions - to both of which he is pledged - thousands of "campesinos" and workers would defect to the guerrillas, union leaders believe.

Thus the army high command would be serving itself ultimately by supporting Duarte reforms. Some

officers are becoming aware of this, glimpsing possible benefits in staying out of politics. Contrary to most sceptical opinion, important sectors of the Salvadoran army perceive the dangers implicit in turning the clock back to the feudal days before the FMLN and the United States, in their different styles, entered El Salvador's political stage. The hard core right, persisting in the notion that the left can be exterminated, shows signs of increasing isolation.

According to some military sources, certain members of the recalcitrant right, high in the army command structure, have been earmarked for banishment to remote diplomatic posts either before, or shortly after Duarte formally assumes the presidency. If the recently enlightened officers, said to include both the Defence Minister and the army Chief of Staff, win the expected internal power struggle, then, according to the Duarte "thesis," there will not be a rush of converts to the FMLN. Having nourished the hopes for peaceful change, and crucially, having demonstrated that the death squads can be checked, the "thesis" continues, Duarte's crowning glory would be to accommodate the rebels within the political system, isolating the hardline Marxists among them.

It is at this point that Duarte's independence from the United States would be most seriously tested. It is hard to imagine Mr Reagan, if he is still president, expressing enthusiasm for talks with anyone who once fought under the FMLN banner.

And the Salvadoran army must be persuaded, and not just threatened, into changing. If, according to precedent, the army is expediently drawing back its claws, democracy has no chance, and an undecided American government will be faced with three choices.

● To pull out of El Salvador and hand eventual victory to the guerrillas.

● A transparently cynical policy of boosting military aid, containing the guerrillas but never defeating them, and sacrificing thousands more Salvadoran lives in an interminable war in order to maintain "a vital strategic interest."

● A troop intervention which, besides risking untold dangers, would symbolize the total failure of US policy.

been confronted simultaneously with a Soviet military build-up and persistent economic distress. The perennial choice between guns and butter has become the staple of domestic debate, often threatening to tear apart a hard-won and carefully constructed domestic consensus in more than one country. But this is a false choice. We must be able to defend ourselves and deal with our social problems together or we shall be able to do neither.

The real issue is to restart the engine of economic growth before everyone succumbs to a disastrous cycle of protectionism. As we have begun again to work together successfully on the challenge to NATO's deterrence, as we strive to harmonize differing perspectives on Soviet challenges in the Third World, so we must also seize the opportunities to resolve our economic difficulties.

In 1984, the agenda has become clear with sudden force: for the US, to control a deficit that could threaten the economic recovery and to lower interest rates in the process; for Europe, to renew both the promise of the European community, and its industrial growth; for all of us, with Japan to resist protectionism, non-tariff barriers and other temporary restrictions which could cause permanent damage.

NATO at 35 comprises a group of nations whose underlying vitality is astonishing by any historical standard. As an American, I believe that we and our allies, working together, can surpass an already extraordinary record of achievement. To do so, however, we cannot begin with the negative proclamation that we are in disarray.

NATO may appear to some to be lame because it leads with only one foot at a time. The challenges of improving deterrence in Europe, of countering Soviet adventurism in the Third World and of reviving economic growth can be overcome if we move forward, if we adopt policies with a global approach that recognize the interrelationship of these challenges.

The stakes are the same as when NATO was founded: our freedom. The opportunities are still there: to do great things together in the interests of democracy and peace. Surely we can find the vision and courage to seize them.

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The author was Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, 1974-79 and Secretary of State 1981-82. He is now a member of President Reagan's Committee on Strategic Forces.

David Miller

Will the Russians think again?

Until about a month ago East Germany, a Soviet satellite but one of the Russians' strongest rivals in the Olympic Games, had been insisting that it would be going to Los Angeles, never mind what Moscow might decide. Then, without apparent reason, it suddenly changed its tune, echoing Moscow's complaints directed at the United States, and it became more apparent that the Soviets were making no idle threat.

It still remains to be seen how much of a false alarm yesterday's withdrawal really is, whether it amounts even at this stage to more of a threat than a promise not to be there. The deadline for acceptance to be given to the International Olympic Committee is June 2, and there can be no doubt that Juan Samaranch, the IOC president, will be using all his considerable diplomatic powers to persuade the US State Department to make the concessions which would enable the Russians to change their minds.

Until a week or two ago, Marat Gramov, head of Soviet sport, was himself promising Samaranch that the USSR would not withdraw, so it certainly would seem that the political directives have come from on high. Samaranch's influence has to be reckoned with, as former Spanish ambassador to Moscow for the past four years he has boasted that the attendance in LA will be a record of more than 140 nations, and it must be expected that the Russians, if they do back out, will take with them the rest of the East European bloc.

Sadly, if the Soviet Union needed any excuse other than mere pique to retaliate for the United States boycott of the 1980 Games in Moscow, it has certainly been given it by American handling of negotiations over recent months on landing rights for Aeroflot charter flights and the non-surveillance of accommodation ships at Long Beach harbour. Both camps would appear to have been playing brinkmanship over the Americans' non-acceptance of a Soviet sports official alleged to have KGB links. Soviet noises of protest about commercial aspects of the organizing committee's administration, such as selling the Olympic flame run in kilometre sections, were no more than window dressing, the real cause was deeper.

There can be no doubt that a Soviet absence from LA not to mention that of East Germany and others, would diminish the Olympic ethos of a festival for the youth of the world. None can deny that the 1976 Olympics in Montreal were devalued by the Third World boycott because of New Zealand's rugby connections with South Africa, and the 1980 Moscow Olympics because of the US/West German boycott after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Not least, the value of medals is debased: Gary

Oakes of Britain, for example, would hardly have won a bronze medal in the 400 metres hurdles but for the absence of the four best men from the US and West Germany.

The affect on the medals this year of a Russian boycott is hard to predict, because on the evidence of last year's world championship in Helsinki, Russian standards have slipped.

There can be no certainty that the Third World would support a Soviet bloc boycott, however, because in the long run the worst sufferers from abstention are those who stay away, as those African nations know who missed two consecutive Olympics. The weakness of the Soviet position is that it has been proclaiming ever since 1980 that it would always comply with the Olympic charter withdrawal will undermine its credibility with the Third World.

There can be no certainty that either the State Department and/or the Los Angeles Organizing Committee will be in any hurry to compromise with the Russians. Many Americans will be glad to see them gone. Peter Ueberroth, president of the Organizing Committee, said only ten days ago that it certainly wanted the Russians to take part, but if they decided to stay away, well that was hard luck and Los Angeles would just carry on in the same way.

Charles Palmer, chairman of the British Olympic Association, was doubtful last night whether the Soviet Union would stand by its decision in the light of concessions or guarantees which the Americans may make in the next three weeks. "I would not at this stage bet they will not be there," he said. Palmer is one of those who believes that a Soviet boycott will damage the Games less than it damages its own international prestige, and that a wider dispersal of the medals among other nations can have its advantages.

On the other hand, as Sir Arthur Gold, president of the European Athletic Union, insists: "Any Olympic Games loses something if it is not fully supported by all nations."

There is some speculation that the Russians may be intending to make the forthcoming Bulgarian Sports Federation's sixtieth anniversary meeting in Sofia an "alternative" Olympics, such as Mrs Thatcher envisaged at one stage during her attempt to persuade British competitors to boycott Moscow. Were the Soviet Union to do this, it would demonstrate that its action is more a matter of revenge than of specific protest in what is intended to be a sporting event free of politics. If nothing else, it makes the action of the British team in 1980 of refusing to be politically unconcerned that much more creditable.

Robin Cook

The crumbling of a Thatcher castle

If this column is a shade bullish this week there are powerful extenuating circumstances. Before entering Parliament I was chairman of housing on the then Edinburgh Town Council - one of only three Labour councillors to hold that office in the said history of that Conservative city. Now, as a result of last week's district elections, there is a fourth.

Edinburgh is the one major city which even in 1974 elected a Conservative majority to both Parliament and local government, and yet last week it fell to Labour's advance.

None of its previous Labour administrations enjoyed a clear majority. Our grip on power was maintained by the shifts and turns on which minority administration must rely. We were never quite reduced to the ambuscade employed by our colleagues in Glasgow during a parallel period of huge council, when they had a diminutive Labour member up the chimney in order to mislead the opposition as to the number of Labour councillors present.

True, the local Tories we dealt with in those days were more pragmatic and therefore more biddable. At the time the Tory interest was represented by the Progressive, a rare species whose habitat was entirely confined to the four Scottish cities, and who became extinct on reorganization, when its members were unceremoniously despatched by the modern school of aggressive, doctrinaire Conservative councillors.

The funny thing was that a few of them were the same people who had been familiar to us as easygoing Progressives, who now reappeared as born-again Conservatives and arch proponents of the dogma of the new right. I have often wondered just what kind of lobotomy the Scottish Conservative party had performed on them at some furtive weekend school in order to achieve such a drastic transformation.

The result was the imposition of Thatcherism on Edinburgh five years in advance of the rest of Britain. Edinburgh stopped building council houses for general needs long before the advent of a Conservative government obliged every local authority to follow suit. The programme for the modernization of council houses was slowed to a pace at which momentum was no longer perceptible to the naked eye, but improvement grants were showered on speculative developers with a prodigality which provoked the rare spectacle of the district auditor querying a Conservative administration on its over-generous use of public funds. Edinburgh became the only housing authority in Scotland to invest less public

money on the maintenance and modernization of its own council houses than it gave away in grants to the private sector.

The growing contempt of the council for its tenants was neatly caught by the symbolic act of the housing chairman in submitting his election address to the printers on the reverse side of two confidential reports recommending two tenants for eviction, prompting speculation as to which side contained the real Conservative manifesto. The bitter tragedy was that in private many of us felt that it made little electoral difference which side the printer published, as reorganization in 1974 had brought in suburban wards which appeared to doom us to a permanent minority.

The last district elections were in 1980, when the first Thatcher administration entered a nadir and Labour nearly won a parliamentary by-election in Southside. Labour had a correspondingly good vote, in Edinburgh, but still was left in opposition. Yet last week, despite the novel intervention of the Alliance, Labour actually increased the share of the poll which it had achieved in 1980 and secured an outright majority for the first time in the history of the city.

When the votes were aggregated Labour emerged with a majority in two out of the four seats in the city held by Conservatives at the general election.

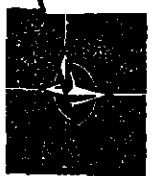
Already, before even the new council has met, the first attempts are being made to discredit it as extremists. Admittedly such a charge is now little more than an automatic reflex on the part of the media to the election of any new Labour administration, but in this case the smear is doubly distasteful, coming as it does from a press which long ignored the injustices imposed by the doctrinaire certainty of the previous administration. Doubtless the same press will ensure that we hear more of Edinburgh's local politics in the four years ahead.

In the meantime we can muse on the wider implications of Labour's local victory. If ever Edinburgh cannot stomach the politics of Mrs Thatcher for longer than 10 years, then the prognosis for toppling her at a general election in 1988 is excellent. Moreover, if the Alliance cannot make ground in Britain's most middle-class city, with arguably the highest consumption of claret a head, then plainly only Labour can engineer her downfall.

May Day weekend in Edinburgh this year was graced with superb spring weather. Full of blossom and bird-song and clear sky - all the signs of renewal.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Nato: the ploughshare factor



Summarizing the lessons of two world wars for the West, Winston Churchill concluded that only the swift gathering of forces could confront military and moral aggression could preserve the peace. For 35 years, Nato has preserved peace precisely because it represents such a swift gathering of forces. As a direct consequence, no generations have not known war in dramatic contrast to their parents and grandparents. The members of Nato have been free to prosper securely.

Historic perspective, however, yields the most insights when it looks forward, as well as backward. Clearly, Nato's past chronicle of great challenges overcome by ardent effort and ingenious diplomacy. Yet the success of that need not necessarily be the guide to an equally successful future. Nations are never immune to the forces of change; they are often susceptible to the tug of conflicting interests.

We face today a three-fold challenge: first, the continuous problem of upgrading capabilities in the face of an relenting Soviet military build-up; and, an equally difficult problem, harmonizing political perspectives East-West; third, persisting economic problems which, we are inscribed on the alliance agenda, none the less affect Nato's cohesion.

These challenges, of course, are not entirely new. Some are legacies from the 1970s. But they all affecting - one is tempted to say aggravating - each other. As consequence, Nato's future success depends upon the adoption of a global approach, one that recognizes both the interdependence of the problems and the need to act cohesively even when the formal alliance structure does not entirely cover the issue.

The first challenge is to our deterrence. The only thing Moscow fears more than democracy is war, especially nuclear war. Alliance policy has therefore always been based on the power to deter. Ever since the dawn of the nuclear era, that deterrence has meant on the military side a combination of nuclear and conventional forces. On the political side, it has meant a linking of the European and American contributions so that the allies shared the "burden" - not only the expense but also the risk. Together, Nato's capabilities and unity provide the best platform for the diplomacy of reducing tensions with the East.



Continuing our series on the 35th anniversary of the western alliance, Alexander Haig, former US Secretary of State, calls for greater cohesion on economic and social issues as well as the purely military

During the past decade, Nato's deterrence has been undermined by the well-documented expansion of Soviet military power. Nato has reacted to this challenge only slowly and in stages. We have indulged ourselves in extensive debates over whether the strategy of flexible response was workable instead of supplying the resources - nuclear and conventional - to make it work. Thanks to our recent success in the deployment of theatre-range nuclear missiles we have taken a vital step to improve Nato's credibility.

Moscow's attempt to split the US from Europe through its military build-up, combined with a diplomatic crusade intended to exploit public uneasiness over nuclear weapons, has failed. Nato's two-track decision of 1979 - to modernize and to negotiate - has succeeded.

The successful strengthening of this aspect of deterrence, however, should not stand alone. Critics of the alliance have pointed out the shortfalls in the conventional force area. There too, as in the nuclear debate, we have indulged ourselves in self-defeating public controversies over sharing burdens, replete with threats to do less unless others do more. Instead, we should be using the existing alliance structure to improve our conventional forces.

Progress in overcoming this challenge to deterrence should also be accompanied by progress in minimizing differing approaches to West relations. During the past years every member of Nato has tried to realize that some of the better promises of the détente era have proved to be false, perhaps because the changing military balance has encouraged Soviet ambitions, perhaps because there was a chance of an evolution in Soviet policies than some may have believed. Still, there can be no doubt that a legacy of the détente period was to open a natural underlying difference of political perspective between the US and its allies.

To put it simply: the political and economic benefits of détente in Europe are clear to most Europeans; the political and military dangers of Soviet adventurism elsewhere in the world are clear to most Americans. The problem is how to preserve the benefits while dealing with the dangers, especially when the dangers are present in areas beyond the geopolitical boundaries of Nato.

Our approach to this problem should recognize that these different perspectives will persist and that any attempt to "extend" Nato's jurisdiction will dilute the alliance's cohesion long before it adds any strength to the West's position elsewhere in the world. At the same time, Nato's members should realize that certain countries are better able to handle the dangers of Soviet expansionism in Asia, the Middle East and the Western Hemisphere than others.



I am not calling here for automatic endorsement of US or any other country's policies in dealing with crises such as Falklands, El Salvador or the Middle East. I am calling for an understanding that western interests are ultimately at stake, for patient diplomacy to reconcile differences of approach and consistent leadership that does not leave us wondering about each other's next surprise.

Our challenge then is not to work at cross-purposes based on different perspectives. As always, that remains the easiest course of action. Instead our obligation is to work together, to try to reconcile these perspectives with the vision of a common interest.

Finally, the security and political challenges facing Nato in the 1980s occur in the context of severe economic difficulties. The industrial democracies of Nato, with their extensive social programmes, have

Miller
Russian
again?



KEEPING THE ROAD OPEN

The disturbances at Ravenscraig and Hunterston now amount to a significant breakdown of public order, comparable to the early clashes at the coal mines themselves. Where bodies of more than a thousand strikers and police struggle together, violence and injuries are bound to occur, and an impression that things are getting out of hand is bound to be created. Onlookers may well ask whether the Government was wasting its time with its successive Employment Acts, if this kind of sustained challenge to authority can continue day after day. Most observers will feel disappointment and perhaps anger, but some may see an opportunity and a spur to action in the fact that the new legislation to provide redress against abuses of trade union power has not influenced events.

Of course the action is clearly outside the law in a whole series of different ways. The criminal law, now as ever, requires pickets like any other members of the public to avoid violence, threats or abuse, or physical obstruction of the place they are picketing. The police have discretionary powers to limit numbers of pickets to avoid disorder. The Government's 1980 code of practice recommends that not more than six pickets should be stationed at any entrance to a workplace, and the High Court has in the past upheld police decisions to limit numbers to as few as two if judges considered the circumstances required it. The immunity which protects pickets at their own place of

work from civil action has now been removed from picketing elsewhere, and the legal definition of a trade dispute has been relevantly narrowed. Aggrieved employers can seek compensation not only from strikers, but from the funds of their unions.

Of this battery of sanctions, few have been utilized. The police have made a few dozen arrests, but concentrated on keeping the way open for workers and supplies by weight of numbers or by ingenuity. But they have not attempted to round up all pickets in excess of the number of six. Neither British Steel nor British Rail have sought injunctions or compensation for their losses. Mr Scargill is still able to boast, as he did early in the dispute, that the Employment Acts have been shown to be futile.

He would, of course. The worst of reasons for invoking the civil law would be to deny Mr Scargill a debating point and thus perhaps hand him the very grievance to unify his union which has as yet eluded him. No doubt there has been a degree of policy co-ordination between the nationalized industries involved: so there should be. British Steel must be looking on at the gathering threat to the survival of Ravenscraig with mixed feelings, for in strictly economic terms its case for survival is a very marginal one. If Mr Scargill succeeded in doing what Mr MacGregor refrained from, and closed it for ever, British Steel might emerge more competitive as a result. As for the steelwork-

ers themselves, their feelings are anything but mixed.

In a region where unemployment is as disturbingly high as it is around Ravenscraig, the balance of advantage must be for a works that is just marginal to be kept open. If the miners did close it, and made it uneconomic to put back into operation, that would be a matter for regret. The miners' disregard for the interests of the steelworkers, at the very moment when they loudly appeal to labour solidarity in their own interest, is cynical. But even if British Steel sued the miners' union, it is likely that the result would be a redoubled assault from a more united and aggressive miners' union, and an even harsher conflict of loyalties for the steelworkers, rather than a humble climb-down and a resumption of supplies.

If the haulage companies carrying the coal into Ravenscraig are denied fuel for their lorries, they might make a very different calculation about the advisability of civil action. But in their case it would be hard to represent such action as a clash between state and labour movement. Each employer must make a judgment about going to law in the light of the best advice available to it. The police, who have no part to play in these civil dilemmas, are right meanwhile to concentrate on the central part of their task of keeping the road open, while exercising their discretion about the difference between six pickets and a thousand.

THE PULSE OF THE MARKET

Jumpy markets, a sliding pound and a surge in bank lending are the classic symptoms of a bout of financial influenza. The markets are awaiting the classic prescription: a dose of higher interest rates, to prove that the Government's commitment to sound, healthy money is as strong as ever.

There is more than a touch of spring fever about this excitement. Viewed coldly, the figures are not - yet - such as to give rise to much concern that another pick-up in inflation is on the way. Take the money figures, first good old Sterling M3, the Government's longest-serving measure, rose only half a per cent in "banking April" (the four weeks up to Easter); much less than in the previous month, and well within the official target. Newly fashionable "little Mo", the narrowest measure of money once thought to be the best yardstick for interest-rate management, did not increase at all.

Elsewhere in the economy, there are still few signs of a resurgence in inflation. Admittedly, the pay signals are mixed: but the strains have been caused by a divide between public and private-sector pay trends, not by an overheated labour market. Settlements in manufacturing have been running as high as 6 per cent on average. But because productivity still seems to be rising fast, wage costs may be rising only about 3 per cent in private industry, well below the current rate of inflation.

Through cash limits, the Government is attempting to

restrain the rise in public-sector wage costs to a similar 3 per cent. But because the public services lack the means of measuring, achieving and rewarding improvements in productivity, this means attempting to restrain public pay settlements too as close as possible to 3 per cent.

For the third year in a row, therefore, private pay settlements are running ahead of the public services, and the bitterness among public sector employees is widening with the gap.

As and when the Government is forced to give ground, the public spending figures rise and the attack on cost inflation loses ground. But there is a healthy contingency reserve in the Government's spending plans, and no sign yet that the public sector is pushing up monetary growth. The pressure comes from private borrowing, which shot up again in April.

The overall money figures were respectable because other elements contracted sharply, for a variety of technical reasons. The markets are unhappy with this kind of statistical success in achieving monetary control, which shows how few pure monetarists there are around nowadays; but they would be less uncomfortable if the foreign exchange markets were not voting against sterling too.

Sterling's latest precipitate fall is the mirror of the dollar's rise; its exchange rate against all major currencies is unchanged since last week. But the dollar's rise pushes up Britain's raw material prices, and threatens

higher inflation. It has been boosted by yesterday's upward twist in American interest rates, and this increases the pressure for an increase in Britain too.

The stage is then set for a repeat of the interest-rate jump in the summer of 1981, when a combination of transatlantic pressure and worries about the domestic money supply forced the Government's hand. With luck and cool judgment, the rise in rates should not be so severe this time.

An important lesson of the past three years has been that the economy can absorb quite a fall in the exchange rate without putting much upward pressure on prices, because companies trim their profit margins in order to retain or improve their competitive position. Yesterday's figures for producer prices are a little on the high side, a warning signal of cost pressures; but profits have recovered sharply, these past three years, providing more of a cushion. So the Government may feel more relaxed about the consequences of a declining pound. Even if it feels obliged to protect sterling with higher interest rates, this same profit cushion may blunt the impact on production. Companies with cash in hand need not embark on another bout of destocking of the kind that set back economic recovery in 1981. If the Government, and the markets, keep calm, today's financial symptoms may develop into no more than a brief summer cold.

SALVADOR'S SECOND ROUND

Events in El Salvador continue to be less than wholly predictable. Sunday's run off elections between the Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte, and Major Roberto D'Abuisson of the right wing Arena Party, were more orderly than those of 25th March. The second round campaign did not degenerate into the violence many feared, and the final turnout was higher than in March. Voting was disrupted in fewer municipalities. Señor Duarte appears to have won 54 per cent of the vote. Major D'Abuisson has yet to concede, but he is not claiming victory himself; he wishes to make the point that Señor Duarte has not won by a landslide, and that attention will still have to be paid to parties of the right, including his own.

The strategic element in the Salvadoran conflict has made the republic itself the focus of greater attention, observation and publicity than has ever before been the lot of a poor, divided, and struggling Latin American nation. It is doubtful that this glare has much illuminated the features of the country in question. It is easy, and surely

correct, to conclude that Señor Duarte's accession to the Presidency strengthens President Reagan's arguments for continued support for El Salvador. His victory gives the lie to the often repeated judgment that the "centre" has disappeared in El Salvador. It may not predominate, but it is still there and capable of making a difference, of electing a president. It remains far harder to see what this president will be capable of achieving, let alone to prescribe exactly, how he should set about it.

Señor Duarte has received the same intense, but rarely measured scrutiny as his country. He is criticized for many things. If extremists' criticisms are, for the moment ignored, he is most widely criticized from the left for having countenanced repression too long, and too patiently as a member of the 1979 Junta, and from the right for lack of sympathy with the needs of the private sector.

The right secured 46 per cent in these elections: tradition, clientelism, threats, and Major D'Abuisson's famous rallies do

not account for all of that. These two lines of criticism can be made to appear fatally opposed to his achieving any success in the pacification of his country, but they should be qualified. Señor Duarte was not an elected President in 1979, and the old power structure is far less intact now than it was then. If that was not the case, he would not have got as far as he has. He is now in a somewhat stronger position to compromise with legitimate business interests.

El Salvador's first need is peace. In the 19th century, Latin Americans frequently fought for *garantias* (guarantees), security of life and justice. It is not so much the pace of reform that is the issue in Salvador, as the absence of guarantees. Señor Duarte, if he is to succeed, must offer a number of guarantees in a number of different directions. To say, too soon, that that is impossible, is to succumb to dogmatism and impatience - two political vices that there are faint signs, perhaps even with the notorious Major D'Abuisson, that Salvadorans are beginning to outgrow.

Sharing our heritage

From Mr Charles Spencer
Sir, Mr Uhlman (May 2) makes the common error of judging non-European cultures from a European point of view. African art was originally religious and fetishistic, discarded once potency had fulfilled its role. It

was never regarded by the Africans with European materialism. This enabled greedy collectors and dealers to transport and sell it at enormous prices.
It is a question for debate whether the African attitude is less admirable than the European, whether a simple, spiritual interpretation of

artistic skill is inferior to the over-priced, over-prized materialism of the West.
Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SPENCER,
Flat 11,
44 Grove End Road, NW8,
May 2.

'Unique malevolence' of apartheid

From Mr David Steel, MP for Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale (Liberal).
Sir, Your leader today (May 8) contends that evil and injustice exist everywhere. Why then, you ask, do we pick out the white minority regime of South Africa for special condemnation? To mount such a sustained and concerted effort against this regime and to single it out for special treatment is unjust.
We must make our position quite clear. It is never right to ignore injustice. It must always be challenged and eradicated wherever it may be found. When critics of South Africa keep silent about the men of violence in Ireland or Russia or elsewhere they condone oppression, they compound injustice, and only serve to make the task of liberation in Southern Africa much more difficult.
Having said all that, I want to state unequivocally that I believe the apartheid system to be uniquely indefensible and malevolent in its precept and practice.
It is not uniquely heinous because of its operation and extent; greater numbers have suffered and endured greater atrocities under other circumstances. What makes South Africa unique is that it has contrived a system of government which has

the colour of a person's skin as a determining factor enshrined in the law and the constitution of the state.
Apartheid is built into the South African way of life. It represents the ideological imposition of oppression by 4.3 million white South Africans upon 2.4 mixed-race coloured, 750,000 Asians and 12.6 million blacks, on the exclusive grounds of their ethnic characteristics.
Apartheid is not simply an attack upon basic rights, it strikes at human dignity; the right to be, and be recognised as an individual. That is why the racist oppression in South Africa represents an intolerable affront not only to the coloured races of Africa and the rest of the world, but to any basic concept of humanity.
It is surely possible to draw a distinction between the necessary contacts with South African politicians by neighbouring states, and even by Britain on questions like Namibia, and giving respectability through an official visit by their Prime Minister here.
It is better that he remain an outcast, to use your own words, until apartheid is abolished.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEEL,
House of Commons,
May 8.

Shadow over Entente

From the Chairman of the Franco-British Society.
Sir, In this 80th year of the Entente Cordiale another hard knock seems to have been delivered to the Entente by the French Government announcing its intention of banning entry into France to any British citizen not in possession of a passport.
This seemingly unfriendly act must not lead us into extravagant gestures of outrage; rather, we should maintain our cool and seek a friendly solution to what is, in fact, a quite difficult issue.
In Britain we do not have identity cards (yet most of us have code numbers relating to income tax, national health and insurance etc.); we discarded them with relief at the end of the war - we were still safe in our island fortress and shades of policemen and even less pleasant

officials briskly demanding "your papers" have always seemed to us distasteful and perhaps a bit frightening.
The French and other parties in the EEC do have state-issued identity cards. The suggestion that a simple declaration by a citizen that he is a British citizen would be totally unacceptable to the French. They are highly legalistic and live in a highly centralised state and if the British Government cannot devise a simple "certificate of citizenship" (or whatever is required), they will remain wary of us. Perhaps a cheaper passport is the real answer.
Having said that, I must earnestly hope for a speedy agreement (July is none too far away) and that, above all, we will forego any temptation to retaliate.
Yours faithfully,
JAMES HADLEY, Chairman,
Franco-British Society,
1 Old Burlington Street, W1.

Keeping jail balance

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust.
Sir, It is extremely disappointing that the two members of prison boards of visitors who have replied to Rod Morgan's article (April 7) should have failed to address his central theme. Both Mr Appleton (April 23) and Sir Anthony Troup (May 2) argue that boards of visitors should exert whatever pressure they can to secure improvements in prison conditions. Mr Morgan, in analysing the public silence of boards suggests that the reason has not been the lack of such exhortation but rather a product of boards' appointment and duties, particularly their internal adjudicatory functions.
Indeed Mr Appleton advances the rather peculiar notion that boards should not operate principally as public watchdogs but as a sort of balancing act between prisoners and prison staff. In a passage which will only add to existing disquiet about the conduct of prison adjudications he suggests that these are necessary to demonstrate to staff that boards operate on their behalf as well as on the part of prisoners.
Both your correspondents appear to assume that boards of visitors will continue to operate as they have in the past. However the recent legal judgments governing prison disciplinary hearings, and the appointment by the Home Secretary of a working party to consider the functions of boards should presage major changes.
The doctrines of due process and - as Mr Morgan rightly says - of the separation of powers are long overdue within our prisons. In addition, the introduction of local authority representation would mean that the public interest in learning what is being done with their money and in their name would receive a higher priority within the overall jail balance.
Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
Willesden Lodge,
Regents Park, NW1,
May 2.

Whose Barrier?

From Mr William J. M. Shelton, MP for Streatham (Conservative).
Sir, Now that the Thames Barrier is about to be opened by her Majesty the Queen, it seems to me as both a London member of Parliament and an ex-GLC member that here we see just another example of the GLC doing things which today should be left to others.
It is true that the barrier was initiated by the GLC, but this was before the present structure of the water industry was set up. If the Thames Water Authority had existed in those days, no doubt it would have been the prime mover. Indeed, when the GLC is abolished it will be the TWA that will manage the barrier.
In fact, the barrier was designed by private consultants and three-quarters of the cost was paid by central government. The principle role of the GLC was to supervise the construction. Unfortunately this has been a less successful part of the enterprise than to delays and expensive disputes.
Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SHELTON,
House of Commons,
May 4.

Bards of our time

From Miss Bridget Allen.
Sir, Was it not a bit simplistic of Mick Imlah (Spectrum, May 2) to refer to Philip Larkin's book of poetry, *High Windows* as "grumpily right-wing"?
I can think of few more perfectly apolitical modern poets than Philip Larkin. Individual, yes, but wholly nostalgic, perhaps. But no doubt this is the trouble. Nobody these days can afford to be uncommitted; and if you do not manufacture yourself a political label, others will be certain to do it for you.
Yours truly,
BRIDGET ALLEN,
47 Ulfar Road,
Wolvercote,
Oxford,
May 2.

Way through the woods

From Mr David Burdakin.
Sir, Phillip Whitehead (feature, April 25) presents an informed view of oak wilt. However, his views on the Knopper gall and Dutch elm disease are less balanced. The two provide interesting contrasts; one a relatively minor threat and the other a devastating pathogen.
A more detailed account of the gall wasp, *Andricus quercus calicis*, which causes the Knopper gall (a deformed acorn) can be obtained from me at the address below. It has been observed that in a poor mast year, a fair proportion of the acorns could be damaged, whereas in a good mast year the impact of the gall wasp is negligible.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURDEKIN,
Chief Research Officer (South),
Forestry Commission,
Alice Holt Lodge,
Wrecclesham,
Farnham,
Surrey,
April 27.

Fair price for books

From Mr R. D. Vernon.
Sir, The net book agreement (NBA) is an inequitable restraint on trade, long overdue for abolition.
Mr Clow and Mr Anderson (April 30) castigate E. J. Craddock for implying that abolition would cure all ills (which he did not) and assert that it would create chaos (a state already in existence).
The NBA has the effect of making booksellers operate as a marketing arm of the publishers. Unlike our competitors for space on the high street we are prevented from determining the profit margin appropriate to our particular trading circumstances.
The outcome is a lot of profitability on book sales which is frankly uncommercial. If you would, I feel sure, react to any suggestion that printers should be entitled to dictate to Why trade price of their books? should booksellers feel obliged to recent surveys have trading that genuine bookshops point of bankruptcy. Survival depend upon profits on sales of goods other than books. How can this situation promote a healthy climate for book retailing?
Mr Clow and Mr Anderson seem to miss the point that abolition when they talk of "not increasing their prices" to indepen-

Economies in the NHS

From Dr D. M. Grant.
Sir, The President of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) attempts a defence of the indefensible (April 17).
1. The RCGP is committed to raising standards in primary care. In his own letter, Lawson says that the college's aim "should not be read as any 'kick' of my college's committee to the National Health Service".
2. The NHS is struggling to fulfil even its present task alone the anticipatory care studies espoused by the RCGP.
3. Fifteen out of every 100 of our profession signed either expressing only their anxiety concerning future NHS resources, or possible further damage to existing services.
The only quid pro quo for Lawson had to answer his signature was "to I and my colleagues support that statement". The answer is no, statement. RCGP members will need a better explanation than the one offered by Lawson in his letter. Or is the GP really not anxious about the state of the NHS?
The RCGP is always desperately anxious to avoid a "political stance". We must recognize that there are different political (small "p") and attitudinal (small "a") Party Political ("P"). The NHS is inherently political - it cannot be

Advancing towards an Irish settlement

From Lord Vaizey.
Sir, Your balanced and carefully argued leaders on the New Ireland Forum deserve, and will get, careful attention. The point of view that you expressed is certainly both constructive and practical, whatever the strong emotions of either side may be.
While I sympathise with those from the Nationalist tradition, the most important aspect of this tradition in the past 60 years of political expression has been in party manoeuvrings in the Republic. The rhetoric has occasionally given rise to violence, as it has over the past 15 years in the north, but it has never attempted to come to terms with the Unionist position.
It is unfair and unwise of Mr Peter Jay (May 4) to regard the Unionists as in some sense colonialists whose citizenship can be put on the bargaining table, and it is unhistorical to regard the Northern Ireland state as unsuccessful.
The standards of social welfare among the Nationalist minority in the north are higher than those prevailing in the south, and much of the evidence suggests that discrimination springs from social causes such as the fact that the majority of the Nationalist community are rural or unskilled working-class people.
Limited advances can be made in some areas of economic cooperation and in some areas of security. These advances, however, will be jeopardized if the Unionist people feel themselves to be threatened in the longer term.
This may be unfortunate and, in the eyes of the Nationalists and their sympathizers, undesirable but it is the case, as you quite rightly say, and it must be an accepted premise for future policies.
Yours faithfully,
VAIZEY,
House of Lords,
May 4.

majority in that one has made "no effective efforts" (ambiguous phrase) "to develop a successful community in the Six Counties".
One may deplore the intransigence of that majority over the 60 years of its existence, but Westminster does not "clearly have the right" to act without the consent of the people of NI (sic).
It has the power to pass a law, but that is not the same thing. However, Mr Jay wants the UK Government merely to express the opinion "that a democratic united Ireland" would be preferable to "a divided Ireland threatened by Marxist terrorism".
Fact 7: on what evidence is this opinion "almost certainly" the opinion of most of the people of Great Britain? And if it is, the word "democratic" has still to be defined in the particular context, and the New Ireland Forum offers a choice of three definitions. Mr Jay offers none.
Fact 8: the denouement which is to follow this proposed decision is made to sound so easy, as if one wonders why nobody has thought of it before.
The superficiality of the eight "facts" compares ill with the serious analysis in your editoria Dublin's view". May 3), while Mr Jay dismisses as "disparaging without waiting for the sequel One Island: two nations". May 4).
Yours faithfully,
M. W. WYNNE,
Old Fishery Cottage,
Boxmoor,
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire,
May 5.

Shadow over Entente

From Mr B. A. J. Klor.
Sir, Not for the first time those with direct knowledge of Ulster see only part of the picture. Mr Jay's letter (May 4) bolsters that a "united Ireland" would be healthier than a divided or threatened by Marxist terrorism. Ireland would not cease to be so of Sinn Féin he would programly be opposed to any Ireland, north south or united, which is not a "Marxist Cuba" of Europe. Ending the division of north and south will not stop them.
Sinn Féin's report is only viable if B. A. continues to put as much real in as it does now. Thus, mfg. forced Ulster loyalists into "united Ireland" against their will. Gain gains no relief from its rden. At least our present one is innumerable.
I wonder in these circumstances if majority of Great Britain would support the concept of a "united Ireland" if these facts are known.
Yours faithfully,
B. A. PROCTOR,
270 Uppingham Avenue,
Stammore,
Middlesex,
May 4.

Concern for salmon

From Mr T. D. Thompson.
Sir, John Young's article (Spectrum, April 27) earns the gratitude of all who have the interests of the Atlantic salmon at heart. Hopefully, it will also stimulate the Government into action, however belated, for although there has been progress on the international front to control high-seas salmon fishing it really is a disgrace that Britain does so little to tidy up her own house.
Successive governments simply have not faced what is at stake. As Mr Young points out, the salmon interest accounts for a formidable proportion of the tourist and rural income in Scotland. It is now seriously threatened.
There is a need not only to strengthen existing laws against poaching and in-shore netting and to prosecute more vigorously those who break them, but also to introduce the new laws which have been agreed for years now.
Drift netting off Yorkshire and Northumbria must be abolished. There should be a tagging system. District fisheries boards responsible for administering and maintaining rivers in Scotland must be re-composed to represent the angling interest more fairly.
Anglers are now far more important to the Scottish economy than netmen but the boards, founded in the 1860s, are loaded in favour of the latter.
Yours faithfully,
T. D. THOMPSON, Director,
The Salmon & Trout Association,
Fishmongers' Hall,
London Bridge, EC4.

Christian submission

From Mr Christopher Wade.
Sir, Philip Howard (feature, May 1) is right as usual, that the curate's egg was really a stinker. But we have a copy of one of the preliminary sketches for the cartoon in our current exhibition about the du Maurier family, which shows the curate digging deep into his egg with apparent satisfaction or, at least, resignation.
His reply to the bishop was surely neither British hypocrisy nor clerical error but the proper Christian sentiment of making the best of a bad egg.
Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WADE Hon. Curator,
The Hampstead Museum,
Burgh House,
New End Square, NW3.

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CHRISTOPHER WADE Hon. Curator,
The Hampstead Museum,
Burgh House,
New End Square, NW3.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Rearguard action taken against dual capacity

Stockbroking firms are beginning to voice sharp opposition to the 'dual capacity' system which the Stock Exchange officials and elected committees have accepted as an inevitable part of the changing world of securities dealing. A consultative document produced last month outlined various routes down which Stock Exchange firms might go. Fearing one of these routes, might be disaster, small and medium-sized stockbrokers are mounting a rearguard action to keep a single capacity system. This system has made London unique; it received the fulsome endorsement of the Stock Exchange last summer at the time of the concordat with Mr Cecil Parkinson; it was discarded as impractical six months later.

In the new dawn of negotiated broker commissions, dual capacity and mergers between traditionally different and separate City functions, small and medium stockbrokers would be under threat. Not surprisingly, many are hurt by not being consulted before the consultative document was put together. Typical is Mr Cyril Greenwood of the nine-partner firm, Seymour Pierce & Co.

He said: "We were not consulted as a firm before the document was written and I think we should have been. We are not enthralled with this document to put it

mildly and a number of us are going to put our views publicly on the record".

Some of the smaller firms feel that the document was written by the bigger stockbrokers for themselves. They fairly point out that of the 228 firms, 186 are small to medium and account for 2,350 of the total 4,400 members.

A strong body of opinion would also like to see the users of the stock market, for example from the unit trust and investment trust industry, making more public statements on the discussion document.

So far only M. & G., one of the top two unit trust groups, has stood up to be counted. It forcibly attacked the acceptance that single capacity would fade out and warned that the system being envisaged as taking its place by the Stock Exchange is riddled with conflict-of-interest pitfalls.

The Stock Exchange might go some way to divert the sharpest criticism by making public the complete file of response it received. As it moves out of the era of a private club, the smaller and medium sized may yet influence the manner of the transition. Indeed, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, has said he would welcome representations.

Muddled issues on futures trading

As the number of futures contracts traded in London multiplies, so do efforts to change the tax treatment of futures trading. But the mounting campaign to persuade the Government and the Inland Revenue that futures trading should be looked on more favourably - a paper prepared by the British Federation of Commodity Associations has been sent to Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and to the Revenue's policy division - muddles two issues.

There is a good argument for taxing of legitimate hedgers on futures markets under Schedule D, Case 1 rather than Case 6, i.e. capital gains rather than income tax treatment. Futures markets have become investment vehicles, intimately bound up with the complex patterns for modern financial management; as such they deserve the same tax treatment as equity transactions on the Stock Exchange.

The Revenue case partly rests on the dubious precedent of Cooper v Stubbs (1925) and owes even more to policy decisions taken ad hoc in the early 1970s when conditions were very different than they are now when a systematic approach is needed. Incidentally, firms and individuals in the markets claim they often encounter great difficulty and long delays

in obtaining clarification of their tax position from the Revenue.

But it does not follow, as the protagonists of tax changes imply, that reducing the tax liability from 60 per cent and allowing losses to be offset against other taxable income, would release a wave of liquidity in London futures markets. The very high liquidity of American markets owes a great deal to a markedly different investment culture and to the existence of many people of means, ready and willing to speculate.

Nor will different tax treatment save future contrasts for which demand is weak, for example the currency contracts on the London International Financial Futures Exchanges. As the recent history of the Stock Exchange has demonstrated, London is essentially a professional and institutional centre, and partly because of that the City has maintained remarkably its international standing. The assumption that what is good for Chicago (and, incidentally, may not have worked in New York) must be good for London is dangerous, and probably wrong.

More equitable tax treatment there should certainly be, but it is not a panacea for London's futures markets.

The Times 1984 Budget briefing

Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget is the most significant exercise in tax change, particularly for companies, since Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister. A new tax structure is taking shape and the representations are difficult to exaggerate. Mr Christopher Johnson, Lloyds Bank's economic adviser claimed this week that the corporate tax proposals are largely based on Labour's 1982 Economic Programme.

To help directors, treasurers, professional advisers and investors of every kind to evaluate the Budget measures and to guide them in making the best practical responses, *The Times* has organized a special briefing, which I shall be chairing, at the Dorchester Hotel in London on Tuesday, May 22.

A distinguished panel of experts will

speak on methods of corporate financing in the new tax environment, tax treatment of individuals, investing under the new tax rules and the best ways of remunerating and motivating senior employees. All the main tax proposals will be put into their proper perspectives.

The principal speaker will be Mr John Moore, MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who with the Chancellor of the Exchequer was chiefly concerned with the corporate and income tax changes which figured so prominently in the Budget.

Anyone who missed the advertisements in *The Times* or who may want more information before sending in application forms, may like to telephone this number: 01-405 3501 (24 hours). Applications for tickets may also be made on this number.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Creditors of Esal may stop rescue

Unsecured trade creditors of Esal (Commodities) and its associated companies may well press for the firms to be wound up by the official Receiver later this month.

The news comes as Esal's seven principal bankers are urging all creditors to approve an informal \$45m rescue package of the group whose debts total \$212m. By its first deadline a week ago the rescue had been signed by creditors owed only a total of \$180m. To succeed, the package needs approval from creditors owed a combined total of \$190m.

Telexes attempting to secure the necessary signatures were circulated at the weekend, but trade creditors, who argue that the package is heavily weighted in favour of the banks, will not sign.

● **BRITISH HOME STORES** has increased the year's pre-tax profits to £55.2m from £48.9m. Turnover rose from £455.7m to £494.4m. The final dividend of 4.25p makes 6p for the year (5.25p). *Tempos, page 18*

● **AKROYD AND SMITH-ERS** is to pay an unchanged dividend of 4p on 25 weeks trading up to March 23, 1984, which generated pretax profits of £7.7m. (49.4m). *Tempos, page 18*

● **PROFITS** at the Costain Group for the year to December 31, 1983, have risen at the pretax level from £40.4m to £46.4m. *Tempos, page 18*

Attack on 'inadequate' textile aid

By Edward Townsend

Industrial Correspondent

The Government was attacked yesterday for the alleged inadequacy of the £20m earmarked in the Budget for the textile and clothing industry, complaints that prompted a rebuke from Sir Brian Hayes, joint permanent secretary at the Department of Trade.

Mr John Lister, president of

the British Textile Confederation said at its annual lunch in London that the £20m - intended to assist small companies with investment in new machinery - was "very modest" and too thinly spread. It covers the footwear and clothing sectors as well as textiles and is expected to be sufficient for four years.

The amount compared with

£2,702m of direct support over the past four years for the British Steel Corporation, Mr Lister said.

But Sir Brian, the confederation's chief guest, said there were tight constraints on public expenditure and many industries were not receiving help. "The protection afforded to textiles is spoken of with envy by other industries," he said.

Findings boost opposition to £20bn gas purchase

North Sea reserves soar

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Official Government estimates of Britain's North Sea oil and gas reserves have been dramatically revised upwards.

The Department of Energy annual review now puts recoverable oil reserves at between 1,410 and 5,280 million tonnes, compared with the previous best estimate of between 1,220 and 4,220 million tonnes. So far 572 million tonnes of oil have been drawn from the North Sea.

The revised estimate of gas reserves is now between 900 and 4,220 billion cubic metres, compared with 700 and 2,100 billion cubic metres.

The estimates in effect show that reserves are equal to those of the Sleipner field, in the Norwegian sector.

The new statistics on gas reserves will provide ammunition for those within the Government and the Treasury who oppose British Gas Corporation's proposal to buy Sleipner gas in the 1990s at a cost of £20 billion.

British Gas and the Norwegian Government hope to

complete the deal early this summer but it is still being considered by the Department of Energy and the Treasury.

Sir Dennis Rooke, British Gas Corporation's chairman, has said that a proven field the size of Sleipner is needed to ensure supplies and that in any case he has given an undertaking to buy all British gas which is commercially recoverable.

The estimates have been revised because of increased information from the British Geological Survey and because of information from a record number of appraisal wells drilled by the oil companies.

The Energy Minister, Mr Alice Buchanan-Smith, said yesterday: "While estimates of reserves yet to be found must be treated with caution, this new study demonstrates that there is a good chance of considerably more oil to be found on the UK Continental Shelf. It now looks as if previous estimates based on lesser information were on the low side."

The department's review, the annual "Brown Book", shows

that in 1983 10 oil, gas and pipeline projects were approved. Six offshore oil fields, three gas fields and a condensate field were approved. A record 128 exploration and appraisal wells were started and 21 significant discoveries were made, compared to nine in 1982.

The report also shows that in 1983 total oil production was 114.9 million tonnes, compared with 103.2 million tonnes in 1982. Gas output was 39.5 billion cubic metres compared with 38.3 bcm in 1982.

A total of £2.61 billion was spent by the North Sea oil industry, 72 per cent of it - £1.88m - being spent in Britain. The amount spent represents 27 per cent of total British industrial investment.

Oil revenue from the North Sea totalled £17.3 billion in 1983-84, compared with £14.4 billion the year before, and taxes and royalties paid to the Government increased from £7.8 billion to £9 billion in 1983-84.

US puts base rates under pressure as pound plunges

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Provisional April Money supply figures suggesting a rise of only 1.7 per cent in sterling M3 failed to lift the gloom in the markets over rising interest rates yesterday.

With rates continuing to move higher in the US as a host of banks pushed up their prime lending rates from 12 to 12.5 per cent, the conviction was growing that a rise in base rates is only a matter of time, and could come today.

Following the upward moves in money market rates, the clearing banks had been waiting for yesterday's money supply figures before deciding whether to increase base rates from the present 8.5 per cent, or 8.75 per cent in the case of Barclays.

The lukewarm response accorded to the money supply figures, which were superficially much better than expected, and the continuing deterioration in the US, has made an increase to at least 9 per cent virtually certain, many analysts believe.

According to the Bank of England's estimates, Sterling M3 grew about 0.5 per cent in the last three months and 8.25 per cent over the year. This compares with the present 6-10 per cent target range.

PSL2, which includes building society deposits, rose by 1 per cent, to give a three-month annualized rate of 15.75 per cent, while the narrow measure of money, M0, was unchanged. On a three-month annualized rate it has grown by 2.75 per cent with a 4.8 per cent target.

However, the markets failed to draw much encouragement from the figures because of the estimated £1.5 billion rise in bank lending, and the sharp contradictory effect on money supply growth of £1.6 billion from external and foreign currency counterparties and net non-deposit liabilities. The external are highly erratic and outside the Government's control, and the markets are

concerned that the present pace of bank lending is excessive.

After rallying temporarily on the figures, government securities slipped back to close with losses approaching £1 at the long end of the market and equities also lost ground. The FT Index of 30 leading shares closed 10.6 down at 904.8 because of interest rate worries.

In the money markets, rates also eased momentarily but edged up again as scepticism about the money figures and American developments sank in. The three-month interbank rate, closely watched by Barclays, closed at 9 1/4 per cent.

Chase Manhattan led the rise in US prime rates yesterday and with short-term rates firming, the dollar forged ahead to DM 2.7865 at one point before closing in London at DM 2.7765.

The pound hit an all-time low of \$1.3775 before closing off the worst at \$1.3835, down 2.6 cents from pre-weekend levels.

However, it was firm against continental currencies, closing higher against the Deutsche mark and the French franc. Its trade-weighted value ended 0.5 down at 80.0.

Official figures yesterday on prices charged by manufacturers for goods at the factory gate provided little comfort to the Government on its inflation target. Producer prices rose by a seasonally adjusted 1.1 per cent in April, boosted by duty increases in the Budget, bringing the annual rate of increase to 6.5 per cent.

More worrying was the 0.7 per cent jump in manufacturers' costs in April to give a rise over 12 months of 8.6 per cent, compared with 6.9 per cent in March. Lower sterling contributed to higher prices for imported commodities.

Final retail sales figures for March confirmed the slowdown in spending in the shops that month.

Market report, page 18

£3m bonus for 1,500 with stake in Case

By Jonathan Clare and William Kay

Computer and Systems Engineering's 1,500 shareholders were effectively offered more than £3m between then yesterday as one of the benefits of the acquisition of Rixton, a United States computer company, last month.

Case shareholders have been offered 1.8 million shares at 650p each against a market price of 830p - a mere 10p drop on the 840p the shares were trading at before the announcement. Shareholders therefore have the opportunity to make an instant 18p.

The critical timing of the £3m deal to buy Rixton prevented Case from using a conventional rights issue to raise cash. Instead, it placed 3.5 million shares with the institutions at 650p on the understanding that half the shares would be offered back to the shareholders at the same price this month.

Mr John Dyson, Case's finance director, said: "The timing meant we could not wait for a slot for a rights issue. But the deal is so big that shareholders had to have the right to come back in". The placing of 3.5 million shares would otherwise have diluted shareholdings by about 30 per cent.

● **European Ferries**, the Townsend Thoresen cross-Channel ferry company, is expected to announce today a capital reorganization aimed at curtailing its army of shareholder passengers.

For several years the company has offered substantial discounts on its fares to travellers holding more than 300 shares. As a result, the 1982 report showed that 42.94 per cent of European Ferries' shares were held by 153,261 individuals, a huge amount in relation to the size of the business. The number is believed to have grown in the past year.

Today Mr Kenneth Siddle, the chairman, is due to announce results for 1983. This is to be accompanied by details of the reorganization, in which shareholders will probably be given the option to transfer to a loan stock.

Americans pay £73m for Datastream

By William Kay, City Editor

Datastream, the compared-based information group specializing in stock market analysis, is being taken over by Dun and Bradstreet, the US business information group, in an agreed cash deal worth £73m.

Dealings in Datastream shares were suspended first thing yesterday morning ahead of the news, which was made public last night after an intensive day's negotiations. The price of the bid is worth 550p a share, against 355p over the weekend and a striking price of 225p when the company went public through a tender offer just 13 months ago.

There was clearly little scope for arguing with the Dun and Bradstreet price. It takes the shares out on a generous price/earnings ratio of 43. Holders of more than 50 per cent of Datastream shares have irrevocably accepted the offer. They are mainly the institutional holders, led by BOC Group and Lazard.

There is an alternative to the cash offer in the form of a short-term loan note for those investors who wish to avoid rollover capital gains tax.

Mr Paul Bossonet, chairman

of Datastream, said: "We understand that it is Dun and Bradstreet's intention to run Datastream as an autonomous subsidiary, as part of its international operations. In some ways I am sorry about the deal, because the management have been very successful, but Dun and Bradstreet can add much to the strengths of the company. They see it as a building block, and they have the technical and financial resources to expand it further."

Undoubtedly, the Americans were attracted by the information bank on British-quoted companies which Datastream had created, and the ways in which it can analyse that information through its computer software.

Datastream was installing an increasing number of terminals round the City and elsewhere, giving a tally of 430 by last December 31. It also had a growing unit trust service and portfolio accounting operation.

Dun and Bradstreet, which began in the United States in 1841 and in Britain 16 years later, has just launched a new £25m range of computerized services based in Hillingdon, near London, to serve the whole of Europe.

\$8.1m profit for US arm of Bowater

From Nick Gilbert, New York

The fine print of Bowater Corporation's \$600m sell-off of its American operation is now doing the rounds of the big US institutions. The "road show" to promote the issue is drumming up interest in San Francisco, Chicago and Minneapolis. Last week it was in New York.

But some of the figures hardly make exciting reading. For the first time Bowater has released first quarter figures showing a profit of just \$8.1m on sales of \$209m.

This is an improvement on the \$5.6m in the same period of 1983, but the company has a long way to go to recover to the gross record of the late 1970s. The document disclosed that in 1983 Bowater in North America made net profits of \$38m.

First Boston, the lead underwriter, has yet to fix the offer price, but it will be between \$18 and \$22 a share. Twenty-five per cent of the demerged company is being sold on Wall Street, with the remainder to be handed over to Bowater's existing shareholders later this year, subject to British High Court approval of the demerger.

Lloyd's rule may change

Lloyd's of London is considering passing a by-law to prevent any working member from resigning without the permission of its ruling council.

The system has been adopted successfully at the Stock Exchange and effectively prevents members from walking out on internal disciplinary proceedings. It is among a number of membership changes now being considered by the insurance market which has been rocked with scandals for almost two years.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1,117.6 down 16.9 (day's high 1,126.9, low 1,115.9)
FT index: 904.8 down 10.6
FT Gilts: 80.54 down 0.48
Bargains: 21.568
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 118.15 down 0.15
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1170.75 up 4.19
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,052 down 106.52
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 969.85 up 15.95

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.3835 down 2.60cents
Index 80.0 down 0.5
DM 3.8500 up 0.0125
FF 11.8000 up 0.300
Dollar \$1.3775 down 0.300
Index 131.7 up 2.1
DM 2.7785 up 0.0555
11.052 down 106.52
Sterling \$1.3860
Dollar DM 2.7600
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.582030
SDR £0.746527

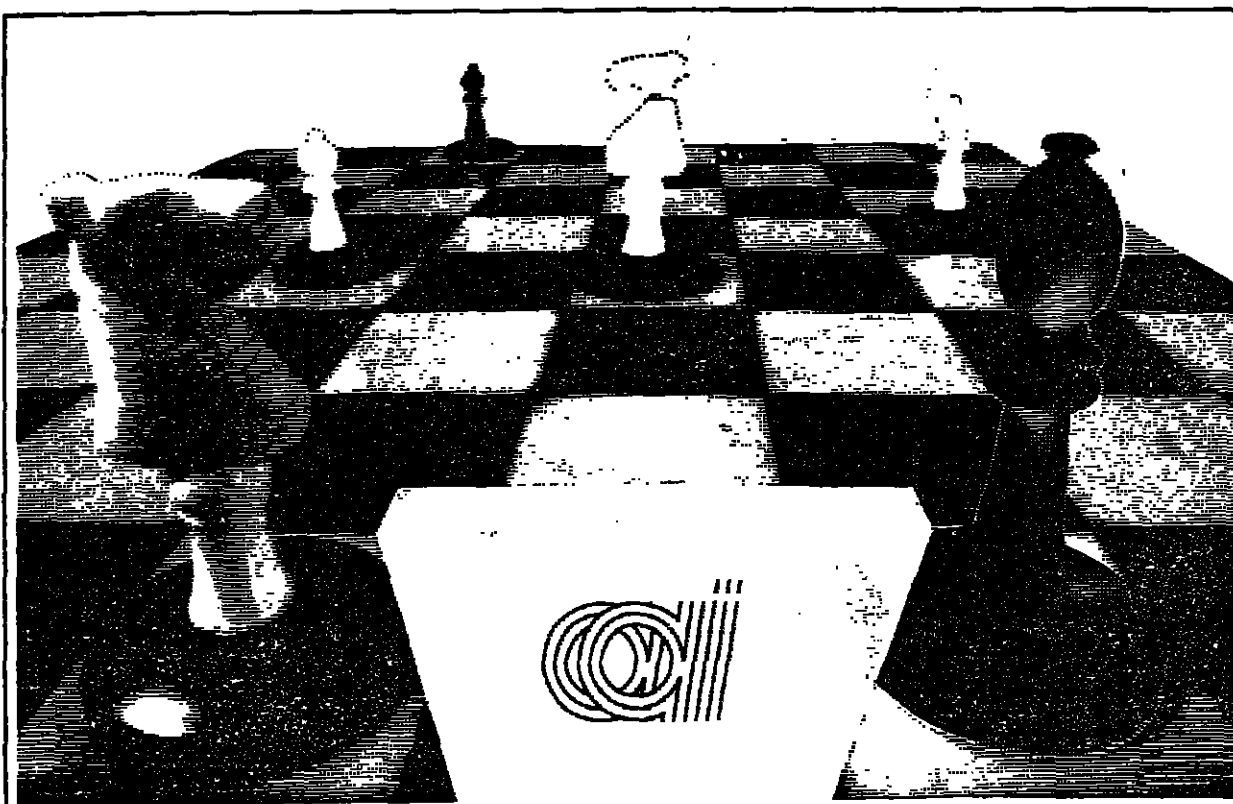
INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8 1/2
Finance houses base rate 9
Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/8
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11 1/4-11 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month Fr 12 1/4-12 1/2
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.00-12.50
Fed funds 11
Treasury long bond 92 1/4-92 3/4
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period April 4 to May 1, 1984 inclusive: 8.934 per cent

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$371.50 pm \$371.50
close \$372.00-\$372.50 (£268.75-£269.25)
New York (latest): \$371.25
Krugerrand (per coin): \$383.00-\$384.50 (£276.75-£277.25)
Sovereigns (new): \$87.00-\$88.00 (£62.75-£63.50)
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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Share prices fall sharply on interest rate fears

Michael Clark

All hopes of a rally in share prices were quickly dashed yesterday with the news of a ½ per cent rise in US prime rates.

This again served to increase pressure on the banks and building societies to raise their interest charges at home followed close on the heels of the latest Money Supply and bank lending figures showing a ½ per cent rise in Sterling M3 and the banks lending about £150m.

The figures proved to be at the upper end of expectations, but were given little chance to be absorbed before the US banks dropped their bombshell. The rally on the London Stock Market quickly evaporated with the FT index falling 10.8 to 904.8 as the second leg of the account got under way. The fall was even more clearly

The renewed strength of the dollar against sterling should be good news for big exporters like Church & Co. The quality shoe retailer, when in 1979 the group earned record pretax profits of £3m the United Kingdom retail side accounted for £2m, but this had slipped to £200,000 last year compared with total profits of £1.8m. The broker Griceveson Grant, is looking for pretax profits of at least £3.5m this year, helped by record export trading, and Friday's annual meeting is expected to reveal details of bumper sales last month prompted by the fine weather. The shares were unchanged at 405p yesterday.

reflected in the FE-SE 100 down 16.4 at 1117.6.

Dealers reported only sporadic selling with the absence of buyers giving the jobbers another chance to mark prices sharply lower and attempt to replenish their books. The overall tone was described as a basically firm and investors were still able to latch on to the occasional bright feature. However, turnover was down to a trickle and marketmen now anticipate a period of consolidation before the index can

again resume its assault on the 1,000 level.

Giltis suffered another shake-out with losses extending to £1 in places at the longer end as the dollar continued to improve against the pound on the foreign exchange. The FT Government Securities index fell 0.46 to a new low for the year 80.54.

Broker Scrimgeour Kemp Gee says the gilt market's obsession with the strong dollar and higher interest rates appears to be well justified. Blue chips were nearly all marked lower with just a handful of stocks able to resist the trend. GKN was wanted 4p higher at 207p while renewed support lifted ICI 12p to 610p following recent better than expected first quarter profits news.

Analysts are looking for pretax profits of £950m for the present year against £618m, but there are fears that the surge in profits might run out of steam in 1985.

Elsewhere, there were losses in Allied-Lyons lost 3p to 167p, BICC 5p to 255p, BTR 7p to 480p, Blue Circle 7p to 416p, BOC Group 3p to 294p, Boots 4p to 171p, Bowater 6p to 309p, Courtaulds 3p to 154p, Distillers 4p to 311p, GEC 3p to 405p, Thoma EMI 7p to 632p, TI Group 4p to 252p, and Trusthouse Forte 4p to 127p.

The high street banks were all marked lower reflecting the downward trend in the rest of the market. Barclays lost 10p to 479p, Lloyds 13p to 500p, Midland 7p to 392p, and National Westminster 10p to 652p. Bank of Scotland recovered an early fall to close unchanged at 327p, while Royal Bank of Scotland slipped 2p to 228p still awaiting the OFT's report on Lloyds Bank's increased stake.

Among discount houses Jessel Toynebe enjoyed a further 3p rise to 105p still reflecting last week's profits increase as King & Shaxson hardened 2p to 160p and Smith St Aubyn firmed 1p to 68p.

Hanson Trust lost 3p to 216p, after learning it had received acceptances totalling \$8 per cent of its bid for US Industries. The offer has been extended to Friday.

In oils BP tumbled 13p to 503p on the news of another dry well in the South China sea, while Tricentral, which is also drilling out there, lost 7p to 216p. Other losers included Britoil 12p to 243p, Carless Capel 5p to 243p, Dome Petroleum 7p to 200p, Imperial Continental Gas 7p to 311p, Lasso 13p to 315p, Premier 1p to 66 ½p and Shell 7p to 648p.

Brewery shares encountered profit taking after their recent strong run. Bass lost 7p to 368p, HP Bulmer 5p to 220p, Greenall Whiteley 5p to 151p, Greene King 5p to 182p, Arthur Guinness 4p to 166p, Scottish & Newcastle 1 ½p to 125p, and Whitebread A 5p to 172p.

On the Unlisted Securities Market share of Castle GB rose 3p to a new high of 95p ahead of figures later today. The kitchen and bathroom retailer joined the USM in June last year following a placing of shares by broker Griceveson Grant at 80p a share.

Builders were dull market on the fears of dearer money. Redland lost 8p to 296p, Istock Johnson 5p to 191p, Travis & Arnold 2p to 338p, BPP Industries 8p to 323p, Cape Industries 2p to 95p, Evode Group 4p to 124p, Hepworth Ceramic 5p to 155p, Marley 2p to 93 ½p and Pilkington Bros 5p to 313p.

Greenfield Leisure, the camping and leisure retailer, jumped 10p to 48p on the news of the proposed merger with Black's Camping and Leisure. Mr David Greenfield, chairman of Greenfield, and fellow director Mr John Greenfield and Marilyn Greenfield, a shareholder, have sold a total of 2.75 million shares, or 25.74 per cent of the total, to a consortium of institutional and commercial investors led by Mr Murdoch

Morrison, chairman of Blacks, at 49 ½p.

Mr Swarj Paul's Caparo Properties, has bought 1 million of the 2.75 million shares offered taking his total holding in Greenfield to 1.15 million shares, or 10.8 per cent. Caparo also owns 20 per cent of Black's, renowned for its mountaineering and camping equipment.

Queens Meat Houses, the provincial hotel group has again increased its stake in Management Agency & Music, the music group which manages singers Engelbert Humperdinck and Gilbert O'Sullivan. Queens Meat has bought an extra 100,000 shares taking its holding to 845,000 shares (10.12 per cent). MAM's was unimpressed with the news slipping 1p to 154p.

Shares of industrial conglomerate Booker McConnell, appear to be enjoying a certain amount of institutional support lately. Yesterday the group was in for lunch at the offices of stockbroker Phillips & Drew. A spokesman for Phillips & Drew said: "We never comment on what is said at lunches". But the shares succeeded in closing above the worst levels of the day at 121p just short of the year's high.

Metallurgist Downbros remained unmoved at 24p following the changeover in shareholdings by two leading holders. Scottish Northern Investments Trust has sold its entire holding of 600,000 shares, or 8.42 per cent, to unnamed buyers.

Selective Investments has increased its holding in Noble & Lund, the machine tool group, with the acquisition of an extra 25,000 shares.

The renewed strength of the dollar prompted further selling of gold on world markets with the price of the precious metal dropping \$5.25 to \$372.25 as US interest rates continued to rise.

Candover profits up to £185,797

Candover Investments, the management buyout specialists, published financial results yesterday for the first time, as a prelude to going public in its own right this autumn.

Pretax profits for the 18 months to December were £185,797, equivalent to £123,865 on an annual basis against £66,126 before. Net asset value rose from £4.70 a share in June, 1982, to £35.75 by last December.

Candover was responsible for the public flotation of DPCE, the computer group, last year, and the £40m buyout of William Timpson, the shoe shop chain. This year it is expected to bring to the stock market Famous Names, the Elizabeth Shaw chocolates firm, and Stone International.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound plumed all-time lows in nervous foreign exchange trading.

There was little indication of any appreciable recovery, with the final closing position still 2.60 cents down at \$1.3835.

The pound's trade-weighted index also weakened at 80.0 from 80.5 at Friday's final calculation, and the fall here would in all probability be much steeper if the Deutsche mark like sterling had not been under pressure.

The fear of industrial unrest in West Germany continued to undermine confidence in the mark, which came off the bottom at DM3.8450, after DM3.8570.

MONEY MARKETS

Everything hinged yesterday on how the authorities would react to the pound's slump to a record low against the dollar. But as pressures on banks' base rates increased, the Bank of England made it clear that any dealings in bills would have to be at the established rate.

This eased the market's fears a little. The bank bought £374m of bills at the old rates in its first round of operations, on a shortage that was initially estimated at £350m.

TEMPUS

BHS reaps the rewards of putting on a bold face

Perhaps the main problem which British Home Stores had faced recently with its image is that it has not really had one. It had become just another faceless high street retailer lumbering slowly on in the shadow of its more illustrious competitors. All this is set to change: BHS has announced a £60m facelift for its stores next year and a link up with Conran Associates, the design consultants aimed at revitalizing its product range.

It is a much needed move, and one which promises to bring some excellent returns to BHS. The research and analysis at the stores which have already been revamped has produced some dramatic results. Sales have increased by up to 40 per cent, average consumer spending has increased by up to 35 per cent and four of the six refurbished stores are at the top of BHS's sales-per-square-foot table.

The most important area for BHS is to improve its performance on food sales. Not only is the profit potential very high, but food acts as a magnet, drawing customers into the stores. BHS's food operations had become like down-beat supermarkets and in 1983 volume sales declined.

The introduction of the food hall concept at the refurbished stores has boosted sales substantially and in the last quarter increases of around 12 per cent were filtering through. As further refurbishments take place in store, and with the product range moving towards fresh produce, further improvements can be expected this year.

On the merchandise side, which is BHS's biggest sector, the aim will be to create a much more identifiable product range which will enhance the brand name. The target market is still the 25 to 35 age group and the intention is to provide superior quality goods at very competitive prices.

Having been constantly overshadowed by Marks and Spencer in the past, BHS is now throwing down the gauntlet

in no uncertain terms. As Marks and Spencer talks about moving away from the high street to out-of-town locations BHS has reaffirmed its belief that the high street is here to stay and is investing accordingly.

It also has the benefit of being well established out of town through the joint Sava Centre venture with Sainsbury. The five stores have a turnover of £200m which brought BHS profits of £4.4m.

The potential for improvement is clear to see, but the keen edge of competition among retailers will make this harder to achieve. The stock market was unsure which way BHS's fortunes would go, and after an early slump the share price recovered to close 1p down at 222p.

Costain

The Costain board sounded pretty cock-a-hoop yesterday over the 1983 figures and with good reason. Compared with a first half slowdown of £6m to £16m, the full year's outturn emerges 23 per cent ahead at £46.4m, ignoring 1982's exceptional Australian gains, while the final dividend is 8p, compared with a half way forecast of at least 7p.

As the board stated, more or less in one breath, 1983 was a year in which the number of houses sold in Britain nearly doubled, significantly improved results came from mining in the United States, Australian and Canadian subsidiaries were restored to profit; the scaffolding business was rationalized; and negotiations started which led to valuable acquisitions early in 1984. And to boot, currency swings generated about £4m, or enough *pro forma*, to pay nearly half the dividend.

The analysts complained, probably quite justifiably, about some of the trickier aspects of the figures. The housing turnaround from a small loss to a tiny profit on virtually doubled completions

(777) sounds dull, as does the marginal slowdown in property profits. Less than a third of the dredger fleet is busy.

But Costain is ready to sweep all scepticism aside, and without actually tying itself to a profits forecast, remains convinced that 1984 will show further profits zip, with housing, property and mining the star turns.

More significantly, the group has run its cash mountain down some £40m from the end-1982 £122m, mainly through acquisitions, and even more to the point, is poised to reveal a further investment in the US coal mining industry, generally considered to have been an industrial graveyard recently, but where Costain sees good prospects.

At 29 ½p, unchanged on the figures, the progressive rating is close to 6, assuming 1984 pretax profits of about £50m, and ignoring the group's basic self confidence.

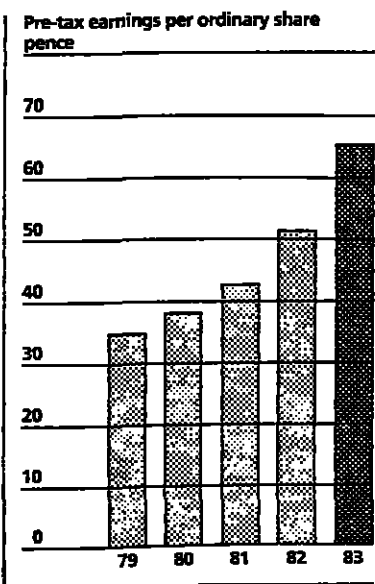
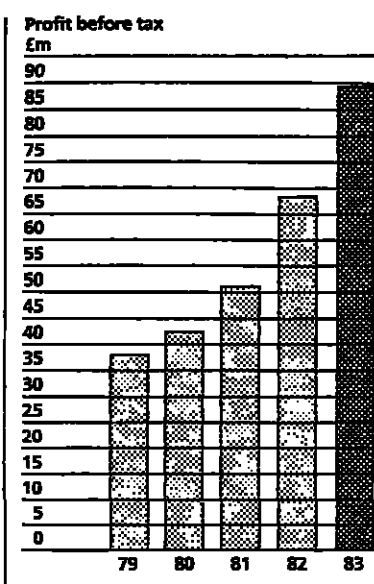
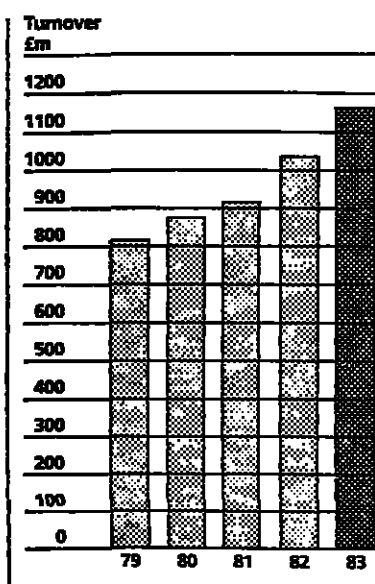
Akroyd

Akroyd and Smithers, the market's second largest jobbing concern makes it sound as if the stock market has been an every place in which to trade during the last six months, with gilts slipping, equities soaring and volume, apparently but misleadingly, slowing rapidly.

But the real fun could come during the second six months. The house view so far, after about six weeks' jobbing, is that profitability has been reasonably satisfactory. It is always harder to make money in bear markets, and Akroyd reportedly are not dissenting from the fashionable view that rates are set to rise. In recent years, however, Akroyd's second half figures have ranged from a loss of £100,000 to bonanza profits of nearly £15m. "That jobbing," as they say, and so far a median £7m outcome looks possible. But if the Kaufman factor really starts to motor, the full year figure might be spectacularly different. The shares fell 20p 535p on the figures.

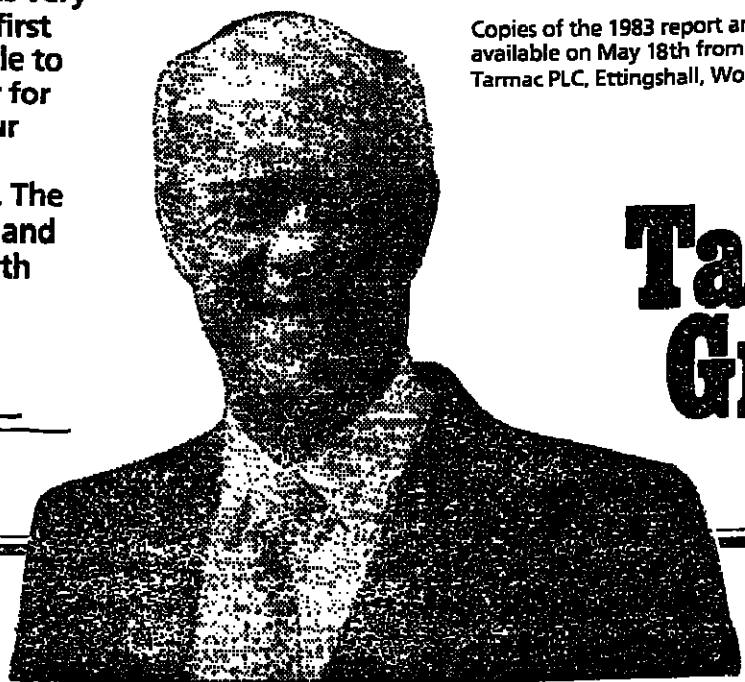
TARMAC BUILDS ON SUCCESS

Pre-tax profit up by 30% to a record £89.6 million. Turnover up to £1.160 million. Pre-tax earnings per share pence up 28% - to 66.1 pence.



Group Chairman, Mr. Eric Pountain, says "It is very pleasing to me, in this my first year as Chairman, to be able to report another record year for the Group. Every one of our operating divisions has achieved improved profits. The Group is in excellent heart and is looking for further growth this year."

Eric J. Pountain
Chairman



Tarmac Group

U.K. and International Construction, Quarrying, Road Surfacing, Building Products, House Building, Property Development, Industrial Activities, North Sea Interests.

Copies of the 1983 report and accounts will be available on May 18th from the Secretary, Tarmac PLC, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton WV4 6JP.

Retail paint sales 11.8% down in first quarter

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Retail paint sales tumbled 11.8 per cent in volume in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period of last year, according to the Paintmakers' Association.

Slightly higher sales to the professionals in the building paints market, where volume was up by 1.9 per cent, was not sufficient to offset the decline in the do-it-yourself market, leading the building paints sector down 4.8 per cent overall.

Over the past 12 months building paints sales volume has fallen 4.4 per cent, compared with the previous similar period up to March 1983. Industrial paint sales, supply-

ing markets like automotive and marine applications, improved by 2 per cent during the first quarter, with the automotive sector responsible for much of the upturn.

But there was some disappointment in the trade over this increase because the final quarter of last year had shown a jump of 5.5 per cent. In 12 months industrial coatings sales have risen 2.2 per cent.

Exports, accounting for 13 per cent of total sales, continued to be the big growth area. Sales rose by 18.7 per cent in the first quarter, with industrial paint accounting for much of the sales.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rentokil's Budget bonus

Shareholders in Rentokil, the pest control group, were told yesterday that the company expects its rate of tax to fall "significantly" as a result of the Chancellor's Budget proposals.

Mr William Westphal, the chairman, said at the company's yearly meeting that the proposed phasing out of first-year tax allowances would be more than offset by the benefit the company would receive from reductions in corporation tax.

Mr Westphal added that he expected a further healthy

increase in profits this year, backed by continued growth "throughout the world".

● GIEVES GROUP: Results for year to January 31, 1984. Final dividend 2.65p making 3.75p (2.25p). A one-for-two scrip issue proposed. Figures in £000. Turnover 24585 (22317). Operational profit 1319 (821). Interest debt 84 (debt 150). Consequential loss insurance proceeds nil (68). Pretax profit 1235 (739). Tax 220 (cdd 317), leaving 1015 (1036).

Profits rise at Simon Engineering

By Ian Griffiths

Simon Engineering has increased its pretax profits for 1983 to £21.7m, up from £20.6m but worsening trading conditions in some sectors have forced it to reassess rationalization costs. A provision of £4.5m has been made, more than the four times the amount anticipated at the interim stage.

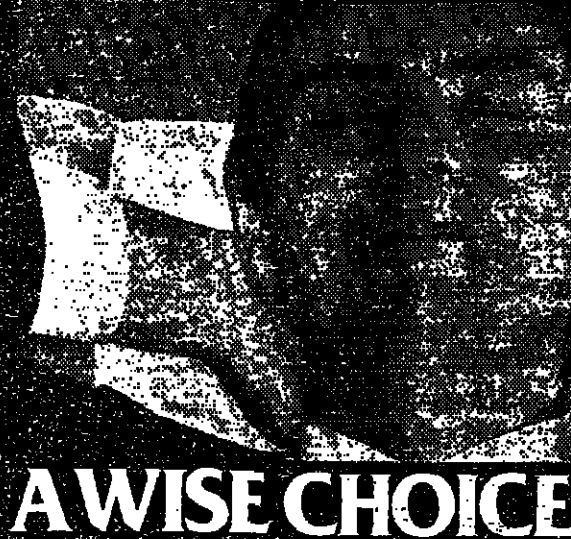
Simon reported signs of recovery in Britain and world trade towards the end of the year, although this was counter-acted with only a slight improvement in most capital goods sectors.

Only the storage operations failed to improve profits, despite difficult trading. Drake and Scull, the mechanical and electrical instrument group, which was acquired during the year, contributed £913,000 in 3 months' trading.

Turnover in the year was slightly up at £376.1m compared to £362.6m in 1982, reflecting competitive conditions in the manufacturing sector. However, the company is confident that it will see a trading improvement in 1984.

The board has proposed a final dividend of 10p which makes a total of 14p for the year compared to 13.25p which was paid in 1982.

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OLYMPIC AIRWAYS
The International Airline of Greece

Economic commentary by Tim Congdon

Why industry profits are rebounding

Is British industry a lost cause? The conventional wisdom is that it is inefficient, over-managed, mismanaged, and worst of all, unprofitable. It is popularly supposed to have been suffering a "profits crisis" for at least 20 years.

The truth is more complicated. There can be no doubt that in 1980 and 1981 British industry earned very low profits even by its own previous standards. But there can also be no doubt that in the last three years corporate profits have rebounded vigorously. Indeed, company finances at present are in excellent shape.

The facts - or at least the official statistics - are given in the accompanying table. They show that in the third quarter of 1983 gross trading profits of industrial and commercial companies, excluding stock appreciation and North Sea oil, were 31 per cent higher than in the same quarter of 1982 and over 55 per cent up on the average quarterly level in 1980. The recovery seems to have begun in late 1981 and been maintained since then.

The distinction between facts and official statistics may seem flippant, but in this context it is rather more than a facetious aside. The company profits series prepared by the Central Statistical Office are always revised and nearly always the revisions are in an upward direction. Figures for later periods are less trustworthy than for earlier and so are liable to larger favourable adjustment. When final data are prepared, the recent upturn in profits may appear even more emphatic.

No comprehensive, economy-wide figures are available yet for 1984, but the signs are that another big jump is in prospect. Unit labour costs in manufacturing are rising at between 2 and 3 per cent a year, while product prices are advancing at about 5 per cent. The gap between the two is contributing to wider profit margins. Most City forecasts are for another 20 to 25 per cent in company profits.

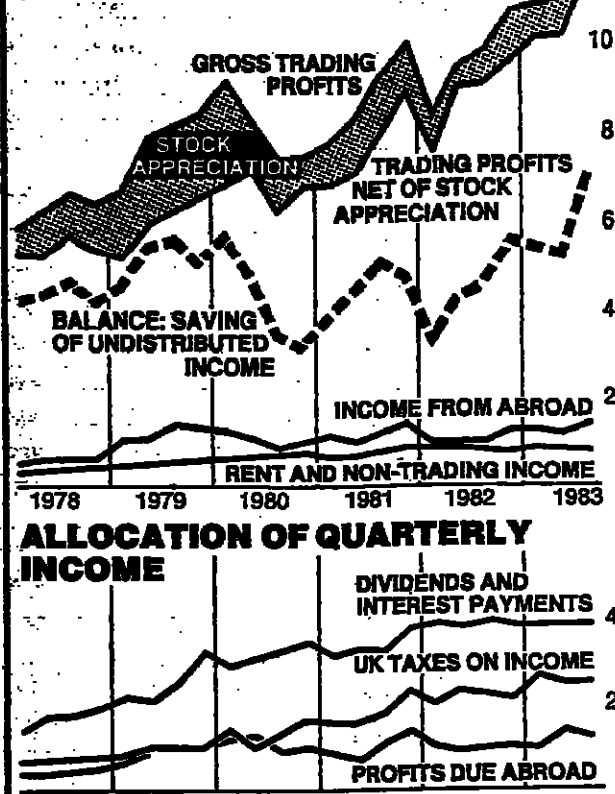
If these forecasts are correct profits will have increased by almost 75 per cent between 1981 and 1984. Given the extent of spare capacity at present and the consequent scope for above-trend output rises, useful progress on company profits should also be achieved in 1985 and 1986. As awareness of these improvements becomes more general, the media stereotype of British industry as in terminal and irreversible decline will need to be changed.

But, if post-mortems are misplaced, analysis is not. There was a fall in company profitability between 1965 and 1980. Why did it happen? And to what is the recent recovery attributable?

Two explanations for the fall in profitability until 1980 can be suggested. The first is that competitive pressures intensified and drove profits down. A miscellany of forces may have been at work including low-cost imports from abroad and the spread of better marketing techniques throughout industry. But most fundamentally, the downward tendency in profits was caused by new investment. Although investment was not particularly high in Britain compared with other countries, the capital stock still rose faster than national output and the greater abundance of capital reduced its rate of return. As the process is a normal aspect of economic growth, the decline in profitability should not be regarded as in any way artificial or phoney.

If this explanation is right, there is nothing necessarily alarming either. The fall in profits reflected the successful operation of market forces and

QUARTERLY INCOME AND SAVING OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL COMPANIES



the successful operation of market forces is what a capitalist system is supposed to achieve. Indeed, one of the main intellectual defences of a market economy is that fierce and pervasive competition quickly wipes out excessive profits.

Most of the complaints about low profits in the late 1970s came, nevertheless, from champions of competition and the market economy. It is a standard classroom exercise to show that any individual businessman's greed is self-defeating if other businessmen are equally greedy. They chase investment opportunities, undermining each other's profits, until a point is reached at which the return on capital is barely sufficient to keep them all interested. Who is to say that, by the late 1970s, British capitalism had not arrived at this final stage and accomplished the euthanasia of the entrepreneur?

The second explanation for declining profits is more subtle and has a quite different message. It also has considerable relevance to the changes in company taxation announced in the 1984 Budget. The starting point is that businessmen are concerned about post-tax, not pre-tax, returns. Over the last 30 years company taxation has become progressively more generous, mainly because of better investment allowances. As a result companies have been prepared to accept lower pre-tax profits, since their post-tax profits have remained satisfactory.

This thesis was developed by Professor Mervyn King in an important article on "The United Kingdom profits crisis: myth or reality?" in the March 1975 *Economic Journal*. He looked at manufacturing profits in the 1950 to 1973 period and concluded that, although pretax profits had been on a downward trend, "there was no long run or secular decline in the share of profits after tax". In other words, the evolution of the tax system, not fundamental forces in the economy, had been responsible for an illusory "crisis".

The data in King's article stopped in 1973 and it is possible that the situation deteriorated in later years. However, this seems very unlikely, not least because 1973 saw the introduction of 100 per cent first-year allowances on

generate adequate post-tax returns. (The calculations are again based on work by Professor King.)

The Treasury's note is quite technical, but it yields vital insights into recent trends in company finances and is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand what has really been happening to the British economy. The key to explaining the viability of negative return investments was the interaction of 100 per cent first-year allowances with the tax deductibility of interest.

One of the Treasury's examples demonstrates that, if an investment project was financed by borrowing, inflation was 10 per cent and the real rate of interest was 5 per cent, a pre-tax real return of minus 2.8 per cent was sufficient to give a 3 per cent post-tax real return. Because of lack of interest relief investment financed by equity needed a higher return. Companies' willingness both to borrow heavily and to accept minimal pretax profits was perfectly understandable.

We see here a major reason why the late 1970s and early 1980s were years of irrepressible corporate demand for bank loans, surprisingly high investment and depressed (pre-tax) profitability. We also see why in the 1984 Budget Mr Lawson decided to scrap 100 per cent capital allowances.

It will probably long be a matter of debate among economists whether, when proper adjustment is made for taxes, inflation and other complications, there really was a decline in corporate profitability in the United Kingdom in

the 1960s and 1970s. But about one issue - the recent jump in profitability - there should be no disagreement.

As the rise in profits has occurred while the tax system has been fairly stable, it cannot be attributed to distortions created by government policy. It must be related instead to underlying improvements on the supply side of the economy, which would be consistent with the significant productivity gains recorded in recent years. Worthwhile new investment opportunities have been opened up, and the services of capitalists and entrepreneurs will remain in demand for a long time to come as these opportunities are exploited.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L. Messel & Co.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/2%
Barclays	8 1/2%
BCCI	8 1/2%
Chubb Bank	8 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	8 1/2%
Continental Trust	8 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	8 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/2%
Midland Bank	8 1/2%
Nat Westminster	8 1/2%
TSB	8 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate
 * 7 day deposits on basis of 100%
 £10,000, 8 1/2%, £25,000 up to
 £50,000, 6 1/2%, £50,000 and
 over, 7 1/2%



STEETLEY

Strong recovery —
new base for future growth

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1983

	1983	1982	% INCREASE
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	£23.2m	£9.3m	+149%
PROFIT AFTER TAX	£14.9m	£4.8m	+210%
NET EARNINGS PER SHARE	24.28p	7.41p	+228%
DIVIDEND	11.0p	7.0p	+57%

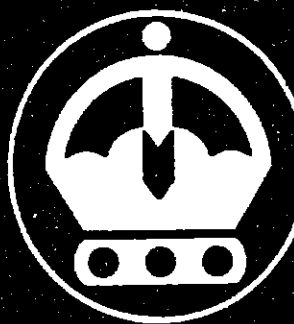
In the second half of 1983, Steelley achieved a record half year pre-tax profit of £14.5m. The increased profits for the year were achieved from a lower turnover of £385m compared with £397m in 1982.

Net borrowings were reduced from £66m at the beginning of the year to £39m by the end. Major investment in chemicals manufacturing, Dutch brick manufacture, builders merchants and agricultural fertiliser. The commissioning of a new brick plant, investment of £15m committed to new tile and brick making capacity, and further investment in sand, gravel and aggregates.

Improved UK trading conditions lifted the performance of the construction materials business. All brick plants operated at full capacity. Chemicals trading continued to be successful. With UK manufacturing capacity matched to market demand, refractories exports were at a record level in 1983.

These results show a strong recovery and fully justify the Board's earlier recommendation not to accept the Hepworth offer for the company. Given a continuation of reasonable trading conditions, there will be a further increase in profits in 1984.

STEETLEY PLC
GATEFORD HILL, WORKSOP,
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RUGBY CEMENT

Another year of improved results



Lord Boyd-Carpenter

- Substantial improvement in efficiency of U.K. cement operations.
- Growing importance of overseas activities.
- 11th year of dividend increase.

From the Chairman's Statement

A day or two before the Annual General Meeting I shall celebrate my 76th birthday and I shall be relinquishing the Chairmanship at the end of the Meeting on 8th June. Although I am not conscious of any diminution in my capacity for work, I think this is an appropriate time for a change. And I am reinforced in this view by the availability of the present Managing Director, Mr Maurice Jenkins, to succeed me as Chairman. He has served the Company for over 21 years, and probably knows more about the cement industry and its problems than any living man.

Despite its problems, 1983 in the end turned out to be a year in which, however modestly, your Company once again improved on the results of the preceding year. This was in all the circumstances a truly remarkable achievement, particularly for the U.K. Cement Group. For in the face of the fact that there had been no increase in the price we charge in the United Kingdom for our cement since 1st January, 1982, and only a small increase in the overall size of the market for cement, this could only have been achieved by a substantial improvement in efficiency and competitiveness.

From the Directors' Report

Cement (United Kingdom)
 The tonnage sold during the year was just over 4% higher than in 1982, an outcome materially influenced by the marked improvement in the number of housing starts in the private sector, the highest for ten years. Apart from private housing, construction activities continued at a low level. Although imports took only some 1% of the market in Great Britain, the situation is closely watched.

There were modest improvements in output and efficiency in production. Further increases in operational efficiency are expected in 1984 and 1985 in terms of kiln fuel, electricity, repair costs and particularly in the more effective use of manpower.

The building of industrial/warehousing units on the surplus part of the old Lewes Works site has been completed since the end of the year. Some of the units are now occupied by tenants.

Reinforcement and associated products
 With markets very depressed a comprehensive review of the business was undertaken and a programme of redundancies was implemented amongst factory and office employees. Operating costs have been significantly reduced and the trading position should improve substantially in 1984.

During the year Rom River Plastics Limited disposed of its interest in Langstone Plastics Limited, a manufacturer of reprocessed thermoplastic compounds.

Cement and lime (Australia)
 The market for cement in Western Australia remained seriously depressed for most of the year until the last quarter, when there was an encouraging upturn in the housing industry. It is expected that this sector improvement will continue in 1984. Sales of quicklime were well maintained throughout the year with total

demand in excess of 1982's tonnage, reflecting a general improvement in the alumina and gold mining industries. A further increase in the demand for lime is expected during the current year.

Towards the end of 1983 agreement was reached with the Western Australian State Government for residential use of surplus land overlooking Cockburn Sound. Due to delays in obtaining the release of titles no sales were made during 1983. However, since the end of the year nearly all the 80 lots in the first stage have been sold.

Hotel (Australia)
 A year of good growth; the prospects for 1984 indicate a more modest performance.

Related companies (U.S.A.)
 In June a one-third share in RC Cement Co., Inc. was acquired. Through a wholly-owned subsidiary, River Cement Company, it operates a 1.15 million tons cement plant at Selma, Missouri, close to St. Louis, and a grinding plant at Orange, Texas.

The total demand for cement in the U.S.A. in 1983 showed a general, if somewhat patchy, upturn in which the three related companies participated with increased sales. However, competition remained extremely keen and cement prices generally failed to respond to the improvement in consumption. Further increase in demand and some improvement in cement prices are looked for in 1984.

SALIENT FIGURES	1983 £'000	1982 £'000
Turnover	138,587	135,521
United Kingdom	29,406	30,186
Overseas	167,993	165,707
Trading profit	16,864	16,639
United Kingdom	5,989	5,915
Overseas	22,853	22,554
Net interest and investment income	335	713
Related companies	992	286
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	24,180	23,553
Taxation	7,246	7,855
Profit after taxation	16,934	15,698
Earnings per share	13.8p	12.9p
Total Dividend per share	5.8p	5.5p

The salient figures are an abridged version of the Company's accounts which received an unqualified auditors' report and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Copies of the Report and Accounts containing the full speech by the Chairman can be obtained from the Secretary, The Rugby Portland Cement P.L.C., Crown House, Rugby.

Gross trading profits arising in the UK (in £m)

	Net of stock appreciation	Stock appreciation	Total
	N Sea oil companies	Other companies	
1978	2,614	19,103	21,717
1979	5,243	18,833	24,082
1980	8,057	19,142	27,199
1981	10,885	20,094	30,959
1982	12,708	22,567	35,267
1983 (1)	16,783	4,836	21,619
(2)	2,863	6,151	9,014
(3)	3,385	5,792	9,087
(4)	3,697	5,970	9,667
1983 (1)	3,900	6,193	10,093
(2)	3,278	6,778	10,156
(3)	4,047	7,474	11,521

Source: Economic Trends

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Third World repayments worry IMF

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The International Monetary Fund's *World Economic Outlook*, published yesterday, is an uncharacteristically cheerful document. "Although still beset by many problems," says the IMF, "the world economy took a decided turn for the better in 1983."

By this the IMF means that inflation in the industrial countries fell to under 5 per cent for the first time in more than a decade, while growth in world output, which had been slowing down since 1978 and virtually ceased in 1982, picked up encouragingly the following year.

The IMF's outline forecasts for 1984 were published at the time of its key "Interim Committee" meeting last month. They show a further increase in world growth, though it is still well below the average for the late 1960s and early 1970s, and a further modest decline in the worldwide rate of inflation.

The "many problems" listed in the *Outlook* are concentrated in the issues of world trade and debt financing. The continued recovery forecast by the IMF this year leads to a pick-up in trade and a drop in the current-account deficits of the debt-burdened developing countries.

But the IMF warns of an "increasing resort to protectionism" and continuing difficulties in servicing and rescheduling third-world debt.

According to the IMF, the growth in third-world debt slowed down markedly in 1983, and is expected to be slow in 1984 too. But the contraction in new lending, combined with a rise in debt-service payments, forced an increasing number of countries and their creditors into rescheduling arrangements.

The effect was to reduce debt-service payments by \$8 billion in 1982 and as much as \$19 billion in 1983.

The IMF calculates the reduction for 1984 may be as much as \$20 billion for developing countries as a whole. In addition, debt-restructuring agreements led to a decline in the level of short-term debt, so their total effect on the cash flow of countries entering into them may have been as much as \$40 billion in 1983.

As well as its short-term forecasts, the IMF has produced a "medium-term scenario" for the developing countries. On the basis of some fairly optimistic

How developing countries finance their deficits

Non-oil developing countries: figures in \$ billion

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Current account deficit	109	82	56	50
Capital inflows which do not create debt	27	24	21	23
Use of reserves	-5	4	-6	-13
Net external borrowing	103	73	51	45
Of which:				
Long-term official borrowing	23	22	23	23
Errors & omissions	-16	-19	-10	-5

Developing countries debt:

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Total external debt (\$ billion)	329,355.9	376,758.1	412,412.4	448,112.4
Debt to official creditors (\$ billion)	111,018.3	122,525.4	131,112.4	140,112.4
Ratio of debt to total exports	125	109	151	145
Debt service payments (\$ billion)	40.3	37.9	41.6	42.2

*Governments official institutions

Source: IMF

Changes in World Output

% change from previous year	1982	1983	1984
Industrial countries	-0.1	+2.3	+3.6
Developing countries	+0.1	+0.9	+3.8
Of which:			
Oil exporters	-4.3	-1.1	+4.7
Non-oil countries	+1.5	+1.8	+3.5
Others	+1.4	+3.1	+3.8
Total world	+0.1	+2.1	+3.7

*USSR & other East European non-members of the IMF.

Source: IMF.

tic assumptions for example, that the American inflation rate does not rise after this year, and that growth in the industrial world averages over three per cent during 1985 to 1990, this projects a steady decline in the ratio of external debt to exports of developing countries, from 150 in 1983 to 124 by 1990.

However, even under this "scenario", the ratio of debt-service payments to exports would rise for the 25 biggest borrowers over which there has been most international concern.

Crowther increases profits to £227,000

By Ian Griffiths

John Crowther Group, the Huddersfield textile manufacturing company, has reported pretax profits of £227,000 for 1983 despite absorbing a £58,000 loss Rayon and Allied Fibres, which has now been closed down.

Profits are almost five times higher than the £46,000 made before tax last year.

The closure of Rayon and Allied Fibres was blamed on the severe shortage of man-made fibre waste products. Attempts to replace traditional sources of supply with products from Eastern block countries were unsuccessful, as suppliers failed to deliver on time and to a suitably high standard. Closure costs of £96,000 were charged as an extraordinary item.

Turnover is up from £5.6m to £7.3m. Crowther believes that recent rationalization has created a modern and more efficient factory, and is budgeting for 25 per cent higher output of fabric.

Order books are looking healthier than this time last year. Crowther has already delivered or has on order 70 per cent of the total year's budgeted production compared to 40 per cent at the same time a year ago.

The very high increases in the price of raw wool, which made trading in the last three months of 1983 difficult, have settled down.

The dividend of 1p is reinstated, as forecast in 1983. The better forward order position and improvement in operations make the board confident of increased profits this year.

Dowty to pay £13.5m for Gresham electronics group

By Philip Robinson

Dowty Group, the mining equipment group and aerospace concern, yesterday announced it has agreed to pay £13.5m for an unquoted group engaged in electronics with assets of £5.75m.

The terms are £15 for each ordinary share in Gresham Lion but no immediate offer is being made for the £600,000 preferred capital. Gresham ordinary shareholders will be able to choose between cash and new Dowty shares, but these will not carry rights on the final dividend for the financial to the end of last March. Gresham specializes in electronic fire-control systems for submarine torpedoes, computer graphics, display terminals and advanced power lines. It supplies systems for the Ministry of Defence and products for the developing

information technology markets. Dowty had no influence over any Gresham shares before the deal but now has acceptance undertakings from holders of 93.79 per cent of the equity.

Gresham earned a £1.7m pretax profit on an £18m turnover in the year to October 1, 1983. On the basis of audited accounts at that time, net assets were £3.75m.

The shares have been strong recently on the expectation that profits for the 1984 year-end will top the best market estimates of £33m pretax and emerge at £36m.

However, this is still short of the £39m pretax which the group made in 1982 before a collapse in mining equipment orders.

Businessmen and Businesswomen - do you want a proven formula for success?

Then take up a franchise with Alfred Marks. We're Britain's foremost recruitment consultants, with over 65 years experience in the market. You'll be joining an existing franchise network that is already flourishing in many areas. We'll help you set up the business and its systems and assist you with the launch. We'll provide an initial and continuing training programme for you and your staff. We'll also handle most of the basic administration - and we'll always be there to advise you and help you develop your enterprise. Currently, we're looking for people in the KENT, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE, TELFORD and DEVON areas.

For more information please ring 01-437 7855 (office hours) quoting ref. 1183, or write to Mr. M. Morgan, Franchise Manager, Alfred Marks (Franchise) Ltd., Adia House, 24-26 Regent Street, London W1A 1AL.

ALFRED MARKS FRANCHISING
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SKF

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinedal, Byfogdegatan 2, Göteborg, Sweden, at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday 23 May, 1984.

Agenda

Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and Articles of Association.

The meeting will also consider the Board's proposal to authorize, to the exclusion of shareholders' priority rights, an issue of convertible debentures to be offered to employees of Aktiebolaget SKF and its subsidiaries in Sweden. The Board's authority in this respect would remain valid only up to and including the day of the next Annual General Meeting.

According to the proposal, the issue gives the right to convert unsecured debentures into no more than 1,250,000 restricted B shares.

Notice of attendance

For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must notify the Board, at the Company's address in Göteborg, before noon on Friday 18 May, preferably in writing, of their intention to attend, giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding. They must also be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB, Box 7444, S-10391 Stockholm) by Friday 11 May.

Shareholders with holdings registered in banks or other authorized depositaries must temporarily re-register these in their own name by Friday 11 May to be able to participate in the Annual General Meeting.

Payment of dividends

The Board recommends that shareholders with holdings in the VPC AB records on 28 May be entitled to receive dividends for 1983. Subject to the Board's proposal being accepted by the Annual General Meeting, it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notice of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on 5 June.

Proxy forms are available from
AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden,
Tel: (31) 372755 & 371000.

Hoechst

Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft
6230 Frankfurt am Main 80

RIGHTS ISSUE 1984

The Board of Management has announced an increase of the share capital to DM 2,526,886,550 by the creation of new Bearer Shares of DM 173,500,000 nominal value. DM 173,125,800 nominal of such new shares has been subscribed by a banking consortium and is being offered at a price of DM 140 per share of DM 50 nominal each, to the Company's shareholders, and holders of Option Warrants arising from the Sterling 10% Guaranteed Unsecured Loan Stock 1980 of Hoechst Finance plc, London, the 8% U.S. Dollar Loan 1979/89 of Hoechst Finance N.V., Amsterdam, and 8% U.S. Dollar Loan 1983/93 of Hoechst Finance N.V., Amsterdam, on the following basis:-

- One new share of DM 50 for every 15 shares of DM 50 nominal.
- One new share of DM 50 in respect of Option Warrants covering the purchase of 15 shares of DM 50, such Bearer Warrants arising from the Sterling 10% Guaranteed Unsecured Loan Stock 1980 (issued in registered form) of Hoechst Finance plc, London.
- One new share of DM 50 in respect of Option Warrants covering the purchase of 15 shares of DM 50 arising from the 8% U.S. Dollar Loan 1979/89 of Hoechst Finance N.V., Amsterdam.
- One new share of DM 50 in respect of Option Warrants covering the purchase of 15 shares of DM 50 arising from the 8% U.S. Dollar Loan 1983/93 of Hoechst Finance N.V., Amsterdam.

The new shares (which will rank for dividends declared in respect of the business year 1984 and thereafter will rank pari passu with existing shares) are being offered on the terms of the Company's announcement dated May, 1984. Copies of this announcement, with an English translation thereof, are available on request at the office of the London Paying Agent, S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. Application for admission of the new shares to the Official List will be made to the Council of The Stock Exchange.

LONDON DEPOSIT CERTIFICATES

In accordance with the terms of the Certificates, S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., as Depositary, will upon the request of holders exercise the rights attached to the deposited shares on the basis of:-

One new unit of DM 5 for every 15 units of DM 5 nominal London Deposit Certificates (at DM 14 per unit).

In the absence of such requests, the Depositary will dispose of the rights attaching to the underlying deposited shares and will distribute the net proceeds to the holders of Certificates in proportion to their holdings.

PROCEDURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Holders in the United Kingdom wishing to take up rights must lodge any of the following:-

- Coupon No. 45 detached from Bearer Share Certificates
- Receipt C detached from 10% Loan Stock 1980
- Receipt A detached from 8% Loan 1979/89
- Receipt A detached from 8% Loan 1983/93
- London Deposit Certificates for marking Square No. 36

together with the relevant lodgement form during the subscription period from 11th May, 1984 to 22nd May, 1984 inclusive between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) at the office of the London Paying Agent:-

S. G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.,
Bond Department,
St. Albans House,
Goldsmith Street,
London EC2P 2DL. Tel: 01-600 4555 EXT. 6084

Lodgement forms are obtainable from the London Paying Agent.

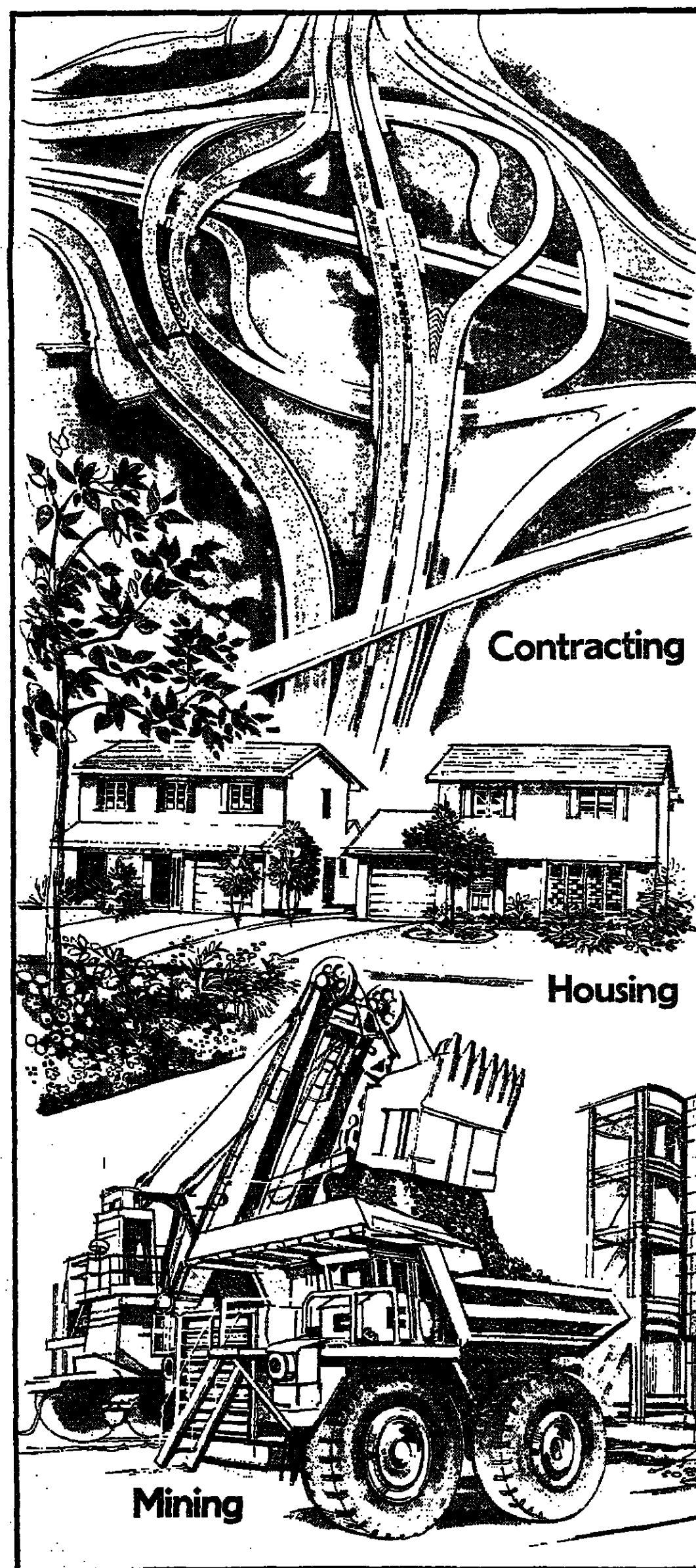
Payment must be made in full on application and Temporary Receipts will be issued.

Holders wishing to make payment in Sterling should agree the applicable rate of exchange and the amount with the London Paying Agent.

Holders will be advised at a later date when the new Bearer Share Certificates are available to be exchanged for Temporary Receipts.

S. G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.,
London Paying Agent and Depositary.

9th May, 1984



COSTAIN increased earnings worldwide

Profit before tax increased to £46.4 million from turnover of £723 million, two thirds of which was overseas. Shareholders' funds increased to £231 million and the dividend to 13.5p per share.

The main activities are contracting, housing, mining and property.

1983 was a year in which Costain nearly doubled the number of homes sold in the United Kingdom, significantly improved results from mining in the United States, restored to profit companies in Australia and Canada, rationalised its scaffolding business and entered into negotiations leading to some valuable acquisitions early in 1984.

Financial Summary	1983	1982
Turnover	£723m	£709m
Pre-tax Profit	£46.4m	£40.4m
Earnings per share	42.6p	38.6p
Dividend per share	13.5p	12.0p
Shareholders' funds	£231m	£206m

Copies of the 1983 Annual Report will be available from 25 May, 1984 and may be obtained from The Secretary, Costain Group PLC, 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7UE (Telephone: 01-928 4977).

COSTAIN

Mining

Housing

Property

TENNIS

Rich pickings lure McEnroe and Wilander back

Melbourne (AFP)—Declining champion Mats Wilander and world No. 1 John McEnroe have again committed themselves to this year's Australian Open championships at Longwood in November as sweeping moves to restore the event's prestige continue.

Details of increased prize-money and upgraded facilities were announced here yesterday by Brian Tobin, president of the Lawn Tennis Association. Prize-money this year will reach around \$1.5m (£253,700), making it the richest sporting event ever staged in Australia. The men's and women's singles winners will pick up \$510,000 (£84,000). That is an extra \$15,000 (£2,400) on last year.

Last year McEnroe was beaten in the semi-finals by Wilander, who went on to defeat Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia to win the title from the best field in nearly a decade. Mr Tobin said the field might be swelled by most of the other players in the top 10 as the fight to finish the year on top of the Grand Prix bonus pool—with its payout of around £293,000—intensifies. But he felt there was little chance of enticing Jimmy Connors, the US Open champion.

Mr Tobin said they were attempting to elevate the Australian Open to the same level as the other Grand Slam tournaments—Wim-

Blistering Lloyd win

Hamburg (Reuters)—John Lloyd returned from a six-week lay-off to knock the fourth seed, Henri Leconte of France, out of the West German Open yesterday. He won the first round match 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, and will play either Balazs Taroczy of Wojtyla in the next round.

Lloyd, playing his first game since recovering from an injury to his left hand, finished the match with blood oozing from a blistered right hand.

"My hands have got really soft," he said. "By the end I just wanted to get it over as quickly as possible, it was so painful."

ATHLETICS

Contrast in styles of Coe and Thompson

By Pat Butcher

Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson take widely differing stances towards the summer, in their races this Saturday. Coe opens his track season tentatively, with a 4x400 metres relay leg for his new club, Harrogate A.C. in the C&RE British League, at Wolverhampton. But Thompson takes on Carl Lewis, the hottest sprinter in the world, in a 100 metres in Modesto, California.

It will be Coe's first track race since last year's meeting at the Gateshead just before the world championship. He performed badly, and subsequently withdrew from the British team for Helsinki. But, on the basis of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal, and his 800 metres world record, he has been selected at the short distance for Los Angeles. His road racing, also in relays this season, has been impressive, and the 400 metres will

RUGBY UNION

Palmer replaces Barley

John Palmer, the 27-year-old Bath centre, has been called into the England Rugby Union party which leaves to tour South Africa on Tuesday. Palmer, who helped Bath to win the John Player Special Cup on April 23, replaces Brian Barley of Worcester, who has been forced to withdraw because of strained knee ligaments.

Palmer has been on the full England replacement bench several times, but has yet to win his first cap. He has played for the B and under-23 teams, as well as representing Somerset and South West. He made his first appearance for Bath at the age of 17, and has scored more than 1000 points.

There are also enforced changes in the English Under-23 squad to visit Spain. Paul Eversleigh, of

IN BRIEF

Honeyghan's European chance

Lloyd Honeyghan, the British welterweight champion from London, has been matched with Gianfranco Rosi, of Italy, by the European Boxing Union for the European title. The contest must take place within one month of May 21.

SQUASH RACKETS: Qamar Zaman, of Pakistan, is the favourite in the Singapore open championships, starting today. He is top seed in the absence of Jahangir Khan, the world champion, who yesterday beat Mark Talbot, of US, 12-15, 15-9, 15-4, 15-1 in the final of the North American open championship in New York.

ATHLETICS: African and other

The World Athletics may be reluctant to compete in the Biathlon Games in Oslo next month if the South African-born Zola Budd runs. Abdul Mintz, the British Anti-Apartheid Movement secretary, said.

CYCLING: Protr Ugryumov, of

the Soviet Union, won the seven-kilometre prologue trial at the start of the Peace Race in East Berlin yesterday. This amateur road event runs over East Berlin to Warsaw via Prague. Ugryumov finished in 8min 45.37sec, an East German, Uwe Raab, was second in 8min 45.96sec, and Nenichio Stankov of Bulgaria, was third in 8min 52sec.

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SNOOKER: DAVIS TO CUT BACK ON COMMITMENTS WHILE WHITE HAS EYES ON OVERSEAS



Cool as Sheffield Steel: White lines up a shot in his match against Davis.

Night the world learnt that to lose was to win glory

This was to be the occasion when snooker got found out. The world professional championship, sponsored by Embassy, at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield was all set to be the event at which we realized how ordinary a game snooker is, at which the public, sickened by excess, at last turned away from this television plaything, unable to face the ghastly 17-day gourmandising banquet of unending click, click, click, click.

Alex Higgins went out early. The game was cheapened by awful Tony Knowles and his insufferable boasting about women. Boring old Steve Davis would win easily. Snooker had plainly gone over the top.

Surprise in store

In fact, I almost did not go up to Sheffield on Monday. Steve Davis was leading 12-4 overnight in the best-of-35 frames final, and it was certain to be all over by bedtime. Boring indeed. However, the man of the championship, the man who rescued snooker from cheapness and from any possible taint of predictability, still had a few surprises left.

Jimmy White, in his stand-up collar and made-up black bow-tie, face shining with the pallor of a man who never sees the sun, a man with the air of the second underfootman given to taking crafty swigs from the Madeira bottle, put on a truly, indeed almost literally heart-stopping performance, to make Monday one of the finest days of sport I have seen all year. He came back, and back, and back, until he was a single frame in arrears, the score 17-16—the first to 18 taking the match.

Well, Davis won it in what he called "the hardest battle of my life". The difference

HOCKEY

Scots miss out on semi-finals

Lille (France) (Reuters)—The Soviet Union and the Netherlands became on Monday the first teams to reach the semi-finals of the inaugural European women's hockey cup here. Both won their Group A matches and accumulated enough points to ensure they will be in the last four. They meet today in the last group match for both countries, but the tie will merely determine the finishing order in the section. On their impressive performances so far, again it seems likely that the two countries will meet again in the final.

The Soviet team continued to increase their goals tally (34) by overwhelming the Austrians 11-0. The leading Soviet scorer, Natalia Krasnikova, hit eight of the goals. The Dutch team were under-whelmed by the Soviet team, losing 1-0. The Netherlands, the world champions, looked improved in brushing aside Scotland 3-1. Had Scotland beaten the Dutch, both sides would have had the same number of points with one match remaining, though the Netherlands possess the superior goal difference.

In the other Group A match, Belgium and Italy got their first points of the competition, drawing 1-1.

Broken bones but title is intact

Walker missed the Wembley weekend but the Toronto wedding where he was due to serve as best man was fortuitously postponed.

Haplin's goal was his 128th in official competition this season, breaking the record set by Gary Streatham two years ago. In a long and punishing season, the Canadian right wing has also accumulated 106 assists for a total of 234 points, which are also all-time British records. These days he conceals his skating and stick-handling ability until his instinct for goal is aroused.

In the past month and a half he has taken a lot of physical abuse. Brinster said: "The thing about Roy is his concentration is so good. You can hit him and slash him but all he is thinking about is getting that goal."

Haplin has yet to decide whether to return next season, for which Dundee have ambitious plans. They

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Simon Barnes

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UK title will not rank with Davis in future

By Sydney Friskin

Steve Davis, the world champion for 1984 and for the third time in four years, is to cut back on his tournament commitments next season. He and his manager, Barry Hearn, will soon work out a programme designed to concentrate on those tournaments which offer world-ranking points. One of the events likely to drop out of his schedule is the Coral United Kingdom championship which, though offering a handsome prize of £12,000, does not carry ranking points.

While beating Jimmy White 18-16 in probably the best world professional match of all time, at Sheffield on Monday night, Davis might have concealed from most people the mental and physical strain of competition behind the facade of coolness and concentration. His manager was under no illusions.

The personal pride of being world champion and the commercial values arising from it should, for the present, be enough to keep the Davis show on the road. In the season just concluded he was nine titles and banked a total of approximately £160,000 in prize-money. On the present schedule a tour of the Far East in August and September, several television appearances and exhibition matches in fulfilment of his contract with Courage Breweries.

It seems unlikely that Davis will play in the international tournament at Toronto from October 30 to November 3, for which those players who reached the last 16 in the world championship have qualified.

Geoff Lomas, who, along with Hearn, manages White, said that White was most likely to play in the Toronto tournament. "Jimmy will have a rest and then go to Australia and New Zealand to play the World Masters tournament there," Lomas has taken under his wing another talented young prospect, Tony Drago from Malta, aged 18, who according to Lomas is even faster than White. But Lomas is convinced, as many others are, that White is destined to become world champion in the not-too-distant future.

The high road to fame beckons other talented players such as John Parrott, of Liverpool, and Neal Foulds, of Ealing. Parrott, who defeated Tony Davies in the first round at Sheffield last week to Denis Taylor in the second, is due to play a Lada Cars £4,000 challenge match over 19 frames against Davis at Warrington on Friday.

FINAL: S Davis vs J White. Frame scores: Davis 73-14, 64-24, 70-55, 51-73, 63-39, 110-15, 77-38, 68-25, 81-4, 0-137, 57-40, 9-104, 120-5, 34-67, 72-52, 6-127, 25-61, 1-76, 68-55, 42-65, 29-89, 4-80, 37-67, 64-15, 82-43, 19-11, 73-40, 6-84, 22-72, 40-74, 39-55, 60-55, 77-40.

Simon Barnes

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RACING

Kaytu blossoms into Derby candidate with Vase victory

By Michael Seely

Dick Hern and Willie Carson hit their form at Chester yesterday. Kaytu is now a 25-1 chance for the Derby after beating Alleging and Falsalf in the Chester Vase. And Straight Man completed the West Cheshire in the closing stages of the Grosvenor Stakes.

Falsalf was a heavily-backed favourite for the Vase after his creditable third to Alphonbus in the Guardian Classic. This left Sandown. When Walter Swinburn sent the lay-off clear three furlongs from home the gamble looked like being justified. However, Falsalf tired early in the straight and was passed by both Alleging and the winner. Going right away in the final 100 yards, Kaytu won by three lengths, with Falsalf half a length away third.

A stewards' inquiry was announced immediately to the winner and runner-up had come perilously close together. But the result was allowed to stand as although Kaytu had undoubtedly edged to his right Alleging had veered to his right as well. The stewards undoubtedly took the view that any interference was accidental and could not possibly have affected the result.

Hern's patience with the late maturing type of three-year-old has long been a byword. Once again this master of his craft has surpassed himself with Kaytu, who had been beaten by Calicini in a maiden race at Newbury in April, and who had also been defeated on his only two outings as a two-year-old.

Kaytu must now be regarded as a serious contender for the Derby, was Hern's post-race comment. Considering that the High Top colt is now only 8lb behind Alphonbus in the opinion of the racing press, coming as it does from the man who has already won the Derby twice with Troy and Henbit, Kaytu, a 50,000 guinea purchase as a yearling, is a half brother to Spring in Deepsea and several other winners.

The gamble on El Gran Señor for the Derby continues to gather momentum. William Hill report a single winner of £310,000 to £20,000 against Robert Sangster's impressive 2,000 Guineas winner yesterday and have cut his price to 11-10. More will be known about the strength of the opposition when

Alphonbus has run in the Derby Trial on Saturday, for which there were nine acceptors, at yesterday's four-day stage.

Kaytu had been brought from a long way back to win the Vase, but Carson had had to persevere for seven furlongs on Straight Man. Sir Michael Sobell's Homing gelding was off the bridle after two furlongs and had to be switched to the outside of the entire field to launch his successful challenge.

Punters started the afternoon's bad note when the Dancer's Shadow missed the 15th April Stakes. Pat Eddery tried hard to improve his position in the straight, but the 6-4 on favourite could finish only third behind the all-the-way winner, Alphonbus. "It's a bit of a shame," said Eddery, "but I've never trained David Thom, the winning trainer said. 'He'll make Indraguna's world record wrangle if I decide to send him to Epsom.'"

Gambles were landed in both the Kingswood Kitchen Trophy and the Prince of Wales's Handicap. John Reid rode an uncommensally judged race on Amaranth to win the extended seven furlong handicap for Rod Simpson. And Eddery was also seen at his strongest and most effective when landing the five furlong dash for Jack Berry on Charming. The Newmarket-based Ladbrooke Racing Stable, resulted in a decisive victory for Flying Scotsman, who is trained by Reg Hollishead for a Liverpool director, Sidney Rea.

Finally it was good to hear from Geoffrey Wray that Teemoo had won the Derby winner, is to be allowed to take his chance in tomorrow's Ormonde Stakes because of the perfect condition of the going. Dick Hern also said he was going to Cheltenham to see the Chester Clerk of the Course. "This is the best ground we've seen for a month," the Royal Trainer said. "Capt. Toller deserves all the credit for going for having the horse in the best of health and well ahead of the meeting to promote a good growth of grass."

Cutting Wind, winner of the Free Handicap, after Newmarket, has been sold and is due to race in the United States on May 25. Michael Hinchliffe, the colt's trainer, said yesterday.

Chester results

Going: good to firm

2.15 LILLY AGNES STAKES (2-y-c 22.50) 5-1

2.45 ARBENT STAKES (2-y-c 22.50) 5-1

3.15 OPERA COMIQUE (2-y-c 22.50) 5-1

3.45 SANGSTER'S 2,000 GUINEAS (3-y-c 22.50) 5-1

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6.45 WALTER SWINBURN (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

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9.15 FLYING SCOTSMAN (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

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10.15 PAT EDDERY (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

10.45 ALPHONBUS (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

11.15 KAYTU (2-y-c 22.50) 25-1

11.45 ALLEGING (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

12.15 FALSALF (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

12.45 ALLEGING (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

13.15 STRAIGHT MAN (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

13.45 WALTER SWINBURN (2-y-c 22.50) 11-1

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 Bilingual PA, 25+, with French/Arabic/Italian, with
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view will organise and attend
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1

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This year will be spent attending parties, best days, and celebrating the 100th birthday of this sales organisation. Enjoy the prestige of dealing internationally when you assist the Sales Manager and hold the fort while he is out. They will train you on the Word Processor. In return he would like the shorthand, typing and a knowledge of an European language. Call Moina Bengtson on 734-0911.

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Meet the stars of Westminster when you spend time "making the rounds" and organising the publicity for the day. As secretary to the Deputy Mayor you will be involved in the world of P.R. and business, helping in general office administration and handling the day to day correspondence. If you have good shorthand and typing skills and want to enjoy an excellent salary plus free travel and a pension, call Lynn Lark on 734-1226.

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Based in the buying division for decorative homeware you will assist the Department Controller. His day is busy and the need to delegate to you is essential. Look after the running of his day, deal with suppliers, find out what is selling and when. Secretarial skills needed for correspondence and memos. This company offers you an involving opportunity and excellent benefits. Call Jane Mobbs on 734-0911.

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c£7,250

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE at 7:30 p.m.
 Tickets \$5 to \$15
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 3rd. Sat. Aug. 11/75 9:30
 4th. Sat. Aug. 12/75 9:30
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